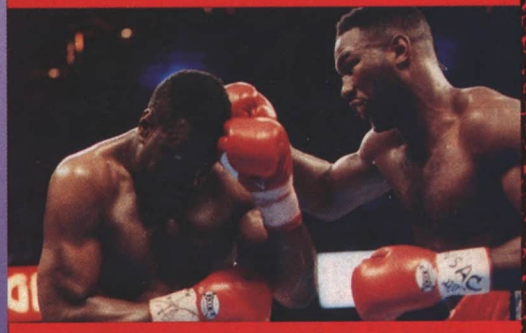
September 1993

Battle of the Legend... Harry Norris vs. Mike McCallum

The RING

"The Bible Of Boxing"

BEATING TONY TUCKER



WAS THE EASY PART

LEWIS'

FIRST TITLE DEFENSE

WINNING THE TITLE WITH A BANG
Gerald McClellan: The Hardest Hitter In Boxing

IN THE AFTERMATH OF ARTEMIEV'S BRUSH WITH DEATH...
A Fighter's Son Asks: Is Boxing Worth It?

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2) Henry Tillman
3) Joe Frazier
4) Mike Tyson

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3) Jack Dempsey
4) Rocky Graziano

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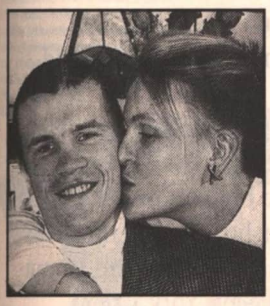

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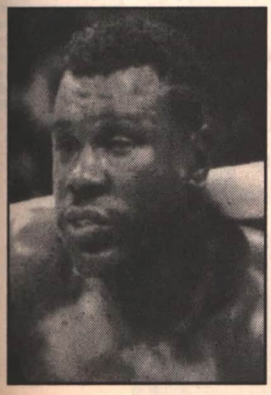

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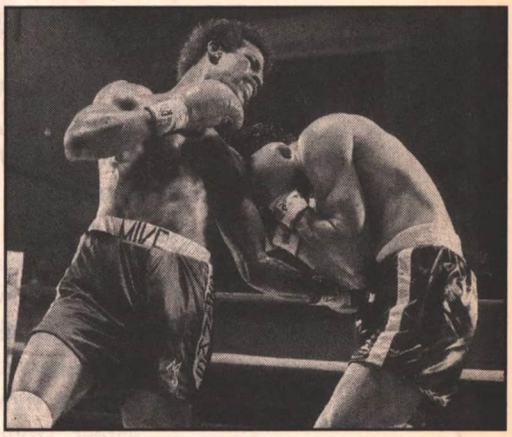

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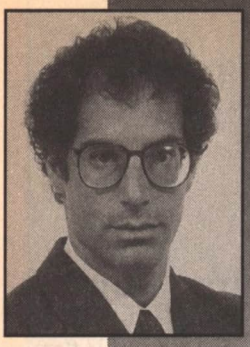

Ringside

It's usually while I'm sitting through a tepid undercard in an Atlantic City hotel/casino ballroom that I fantasize about what it must have been like to cover the fights in the '40s and '50s. Sports fans, dressed in jackets and ties and hats, not designer sweatsuits, argued boxing as often as baseball, football, or politics. There were fights three or four nights a week, and in New York, the Garden was heaven on 49th Street.

For the past few years, Thursday night at the Felt Forum, or The Paramount, as it's now called, hasn't been particularly heavenly. The promoter, Madison Square Garden Boxing, decided to woo the Yuppie/Wall Street crowd, and too many of the fans didn't really care who won the fights. Earlier this year, I attended a clubshow across the street from the Garden that was run by a fledgling promoters Ron Scott Stevens and Cary Alex. Halfway through some insignificant six-rounder, the fans, mostly Hispanics, were standing on their seats, climbing all over one another, spilling beer, and screaming themselves hoarse. I remember watching the crowd, not the fight, and thinking, *Pure passion. This is what live boxing should be.*

The corporate types at Paramount Communications, Inc., which owns Madison Square Garden, are passionate only about the bottom line, and as a result, the world's most famous fight arena is dropping boxing. Certain observers have said, "So what? There hasn't been big-time boxing at the Garden in years." (See "Ryan Out Loud" on page 14). It's hard to argue the point. But I look at it from a different perspective.

On June 16, 1983, they were standing on their seats in the big building, climbing all over one another, spilling beer, and screaming themselves hoarse. But this was no club show; there were about 20,000 of them. That was the night Roberto Duran celebrated his 32nd birthday by crushing Davey Moore, and New York's fight fans—Hispanics, blacks, whites, and everyone else—celebrated with him. I've been to better fights, but that was one of the most memorable boxing experiences of my career. Trouble was, it was one special night, and the Garden couldn't hope to recreate it.

Nostalgia aside, what does Paramount's decision mean to the big picture? That boxing is a dying sport? That as a business, the fight game can't support itself? That slickly marketed sports like basketball have passed the sweet science by? After all, there are almost no fights on network TV, and soon there'll be almost no fights in the media capital of the world. Closing our eyes will not make the problem go away.

Someday, maybe boxing's powers-that-be will consider something other than short-term profit. Maybe. In the meantime, the fight game will survive the Garden's snub, the Washington whispers of boxing's ties to organized crime, and anything else the real world wants to throw at it. It will survive because even the Paramount executives in the $700 suits need a reason to stand on their seats, climb all over one another, spill their beer, and scream themselves hoarse.

* * *

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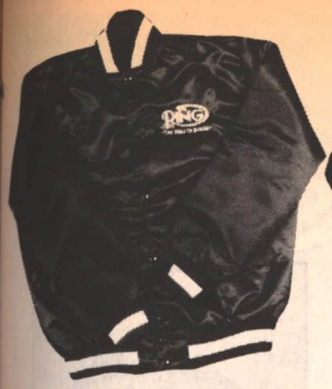
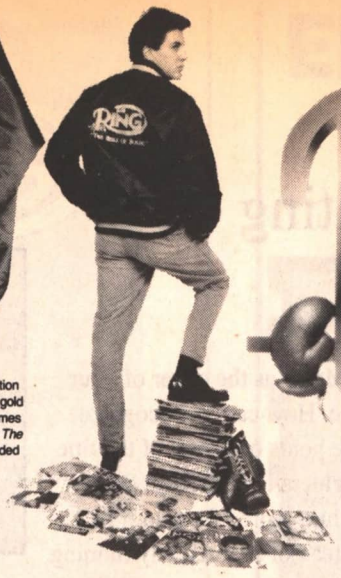
Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief





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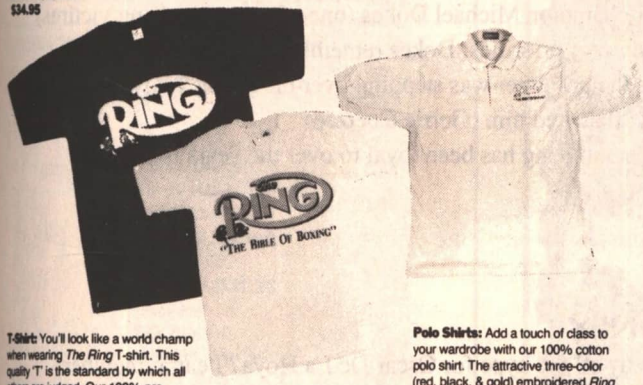

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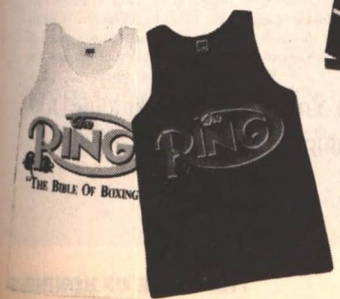

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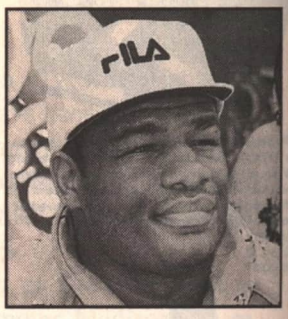
Bowe: In need of a real fight

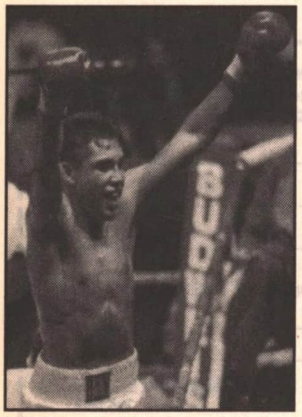


HARDLY THE MAN

Riddick Bowe is hardly "The Man," as the cover of your June '93 issue proclaims him to be. How can we recognize him as the *real* champion when he holds only part of the title and defends against fourth-rate fighters like Michael Dokes and Jesse Ferguson? I'd consider him more of a man if he fought Lennox Lewis and lost instead of shamelessly running away from him.

PETER R. CORY
Kingston, Ontario

We welcome your comments, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your letters to Come Out Writing, The Ring, PO Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034



De La Hoya: Phony baloney?

MONSTER DON

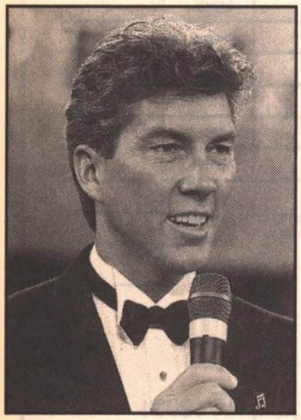
I'm sure I'm not the only Englishman concerned by rumors that the Frankenstein's monster of boxing, Don King, is making overtures of friendship to Lennox Lewis. I have always been impressed by Lennox' intelligence, and I would be so very disappointed, to say the least, if he were to go the way of Mike Tyson and others and fall for King's all-of-us-black-guys-got-to-stick-together bull. It has been proven time and again that there is only one color King is interested in, and that's green. A Malcolm X he isn't.

An event recalled by former champion Michael Dokes (one of too many King victims) perhaps best sums up King's sense of priorities: Dokes remembers looking up at the egomaniacally smiling King as the promoter was stepping over his supine body to embrace the new champion who had just flattened him (Gerrie Coetzee).

It is apparent that the only person King has been loyal to over the years is Elsa Lanchester's hairdresser.

MARK BATES
Worcester, MA

Buffer: Always the entertainer



OSCAR AND BALONEY

Baloney has a first name. Why all the hype for Oscar De La Hoya? I can remember reading about De La Hoya two years ago in *Sports Illustrated*. I looked forward to seeing him in action. I first saw him on television at the 1992 Olympic Trials. I was disappointed. Although he won the fight, he was dull and uninspiring.

I have followed De La Hoya's brief pro career. So far, his opponents have understandably been clubfighters. He hasn't proved anything yet. There's some talk about a title fight with Azumah Nelson. I doubt very seriously if Oscar would last four rounds. It won't be long before we see that Oscar is a bunch of baloney.

RON PANTSKO
Chicago, IL

READY TO GRUMBLE

Michael Buffer annoying? ("Ryan Out Loud," June 1993) You've got to be kidding, Jeff Ryan. I find him three times as entertaining as that paper champ, Riddick Bowe.

LEN GILBERT
Kitchener, Ontario

Volume 72, No. 9 September 1993

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STUART M. SAKS
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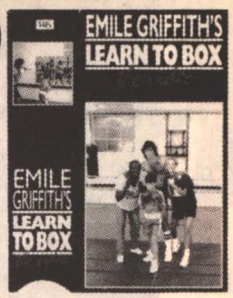

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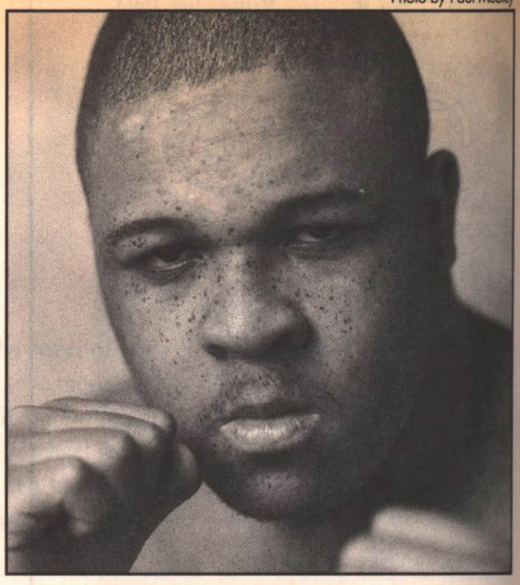


Rayner: A true tragedy

Round One

The gentle giant

This kind of thing wasn't supposed to happen to people like Mark Rayner. In April, the 23-year-old heavyweight was tragically shot and killed in a botched carjacking in Detroit. Rayner didn't live in Detroit; he was a suburban kid. And unlike so many young boxers, he didn't drink or do drugs. According to manager Jackie Kallen, Rayner truly was at the wrong place at the wrong time.

"He did nothing, absolutely nothing," said an emotional Kallen weeks after Rayner's death. "He would never hurt anybody outside of the ring. It's a terrible loss. He was like family. I take it as someone took something away from me. We had a lot of plans for that kid."

Rayner, who was known around his gym as a gentle giant, was scheduled to make his pro debut on May 25 at The Palace of Auburn Hills. Standing 6'6" and weighing 255 pounds, he was still developing, but considered a rising star. In 1992 he was the National Golden Gloves champion.

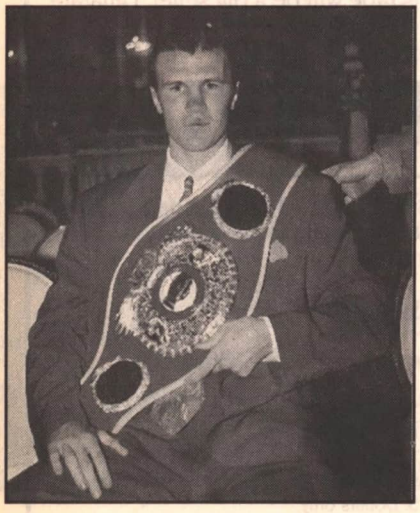
"He was dedicated to boxing and looked forward to turning pro," Kallen said. "He was our biggest fighter by size, but also the sweetest one. There was always a smile on his big, friendly face. He didn't have a mean bone in him. I was so angry. Why would anyone want to hurt him?"

Kallen's star boxer, IBF super middleweight champion James Toney, was also very shaken by the loss. Toney put one of his championship belts in Rayner's casket, and served as a pallbearer at his funeral.

The word tragic is overused these days, but this was a death that truly was just that.

—Eric Karabell

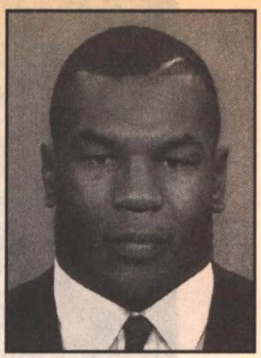
Artemiev: A worthy cause



Outside the ropes

The story of Sergei Artemiev has touched all of boxing (see page 30). Those interested in contributing to a most worthy cause should make checks payable to The Sergei Artemiev Fund, c/o Andriolo Communications, 156 Fifth Avenue, Suite 434, New York, NY 10010. Among the first to make a donation: rock superstar Axl Rose ... WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill underwent arthroscopic surgery on his left shoulder after his title defense against Fabrice Tiozzo. It is anticipated that he will suffer no lingering damage ... Syd Martin, who trained, among others, Muhammad Ali, Joe Louis, George Foreman, and Floyd Patterson, died at age 84 in Hackensack, New Jersey ... Jimmy Flood, a middleweight contender in the '50s, died of a heart attack at age 63. Flood, a native New Yorker, faced a host of contenders, including Ernie Durando, Charlie Fusari, and Rocky Castellani.

TYSON: NO BOXING ON HIS MIND



Tyson: Will he box again?

Imprisoned former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson makes news whenever he speaks. That was the case in an April interview with Star Jones on Dateline NBC. Tyson denied that he had changed, or intended to change, his name to a Muslim name, claimed he hadn't spoken to ex-wife Robin Givens since early-1990, and shed some surprising light on what his future will not hold.

Asked if he would like to fight WBA/IBF heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe, Tyson said, "I don't want to fight anybody. I would like to go home. I mean, I'd just like to get out of here and start my life ... At this particular moment, boxing's not the best step for me. My step right now is just to rebuild my life."

Tyson, who is serving a 6 1/2-year sentence for rape, also said he would like to go to college, but admitted he can't even see beyond the prison doors: "I never dream from the outside, when I sleep, I only dream about being in prison. That's the reality."

HUGH BENBOW: 1903-1993

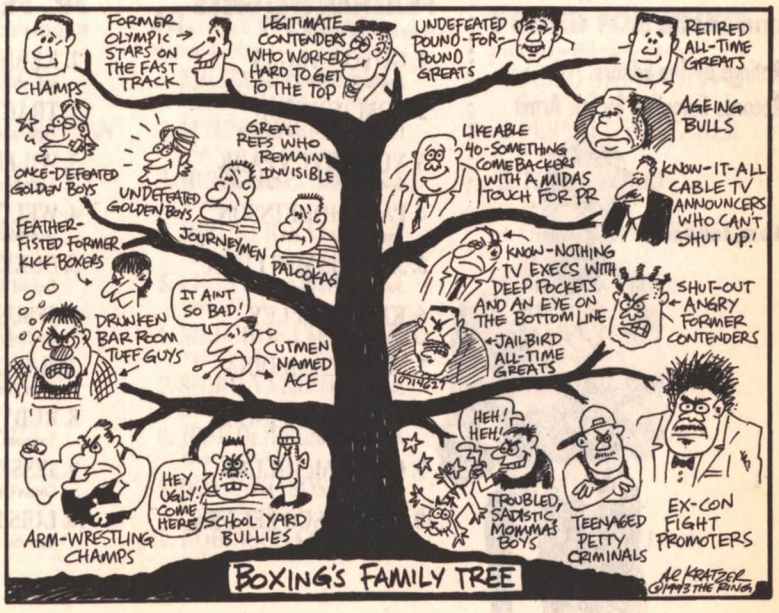
Benbow with Cleveland Williams

Colorful trainer Hugh Benbow died on April 12 in Houston after a long illness. He was 89. Benbow, a Houston resident for most of his life, was taught to train fighters by legendary lightweight champion Benny Leonard. He opened a boxing camp on his ranch in Yoakum, Texas, in the '60s, and advertised his A&B Gym (co-owned by Bud Adams) in *The Ring* and other publications, inviting young men who were interested in careers as prize fighters to come on down.

Benbow's best-known fighter was powerpuncher Cleveland "Big Cat" Williams, who was kayoed in the third round by Muhammad Ali in 1966. (The accompanying photo shows Benbow visiting Williams after the heavyweight was shot during a scuffle with a Texas highway patrolman in 1964.) Dave Zyglewicz, one of his "Want-Ad Warriors," became a local favorite and secured a try at Joe Frazier in 1969. He lasted 96 seconds. Benbow's last big shot came in 1983, when he promoted Bubba Busceme in an unsuccessful challenge of WBC lightweight champion Alexis Arguello.

Benbow ran away from home at age 15 to go east and meet his idols, Gene Tunney and Jack Dempsey. A stroke slowed him in 1975, but he fought back and reinvolved himself in the sport he loved.

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended May 12, 1993

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors
Records Compiled By Eric Armit

Tom Johnson

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Weight Unlimited

1. **RIDDICK BOWE**
   Fort Washington, MD *33-0 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS**
   England *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
   Atlanta, GA *28-1*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER**
   Detroit, MI *32-0*
5. **GEORGE FOREMAN**
   Marshall, TX *72-3*
6. **TOMMY MORRISON**
   Merriam, KS *35-1*
7. **ALEX GARCIA**
   San Fernando, CA *33-1*
8. **RAZOR RUDDOCK**
   Canada *27-4-1*
9. **TONY TUBBS**
   Redondo Beach, CA *34-4*
10. **OLIVER McCALL**
    Chicago, IL *22-5*

Alex Garcia

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **GERALD McCLELLAN**
   Freeport, IL *28-2 (WBC Champ)*
2. **REGGIE JOHNSON**
   Houston, TX *34-2-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **ROY JONES**
   Pensacola, FL *21-0*
4. **JULIAN JACKSON**
   Virgin Islands *46-2*
5. **SUMBU KALAMBAY**
   Italy *55-5-1*
6. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Philadelphia, PA *22-1*
7. **THOMAS TATE**
   Houston, TX *27-2*
8. **LAMAR PARKS**
   Greeneville, SC *24-1*
9. **OTIS GRANT**
   Canada *18-0*
10. **FREDERIC SEILLIER**
    France *31-4-2*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS

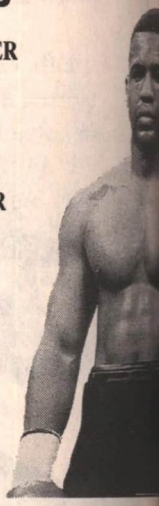
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *34-3 (WBC Champ)*
2. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *43-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **GIANFRANCO ROSI**
   Italy *57-3 (IBF Champ)*
4. **VINNY PAZIENZA**
   Cranston, RI *33-5*
5. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON**
   Seattle, WA *28-0*
6. **VERNON PHILLIPS**
   New York, NY *18-5*
7. **GILBERT DELE**
   France *33-3-1*
8. **CARL DANIELS**
   St. Louis, MO *30-1*
9. **AARON DAVIS**
   Bronx, NY *36-1*
10. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
    France *23-1*

WELTERWEIGHTS

Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *32-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **CRISANTO ESPANA**
   N. Ireland *29-0 (WBA Champ)*
3. **BUDDY McGIRT**
   Hauppauge, NY *58-3-1*
4. **MAURICE BLOCKER**
   Germantown, MD *34-3 (IBF Champ)*
5. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *46-0*
6. **STEPHAN JOHNSON**
   Brooklyn, NY *22-4-1*
7. **DAVID GONZALEZ**
   Houston, TX *32-2-1*
8. **GENARO LEON**
   Mexico *41-3-2*
9. **LARRY BARNES**
   Mt. Vernon, NY *27-1*
10. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
    Puerto Rico *18-0*



Larry Barnes

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **GOYO VARGAS**
   Mexico *29-3-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI *31-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **YUNG KYUN PARK**
   South Korea *24-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **PAUL HODKINSON**
   England *22-2-1*
5. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA**
   San Antonio, TX *26-0-1*
6. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY *33-0*
7. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico *46-4*
8. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Philippines *31-6*
9. **COLIN McMILLAN**
   England *23-2*
10. **FRANCISCO SEGURA**
    Coachella, CA *22-6*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS

Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Las Vegas, NV *23-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *47-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **WILFREDO VASQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico *36-6-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *31-1*
5. **DUKE McKENZIE**
   England *33-3*
6. **JESUS SALUD**
   San Diego, CA *44-5*
7. **JULIO GERVACIO**
   Puerto Rico *25-3-2*
8. **RUDY ZAVALA**
   Rosemead, CA *21-1-2*
9. **JESSE BENAVIDES**
   Corpus Christi, TX *35-3-1*
10. **LUIS MENDOZA**
    Colombia *34-4-2*

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Laredo, TX *34-1-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Brooklyn, NY *28-0*
3. **ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *23-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JUNG IL BYUN**
   South Korea *9-0 (WBC Champ)*
5. **VICTOR RABANALES**
   Mexico *33-11-2*
6. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
   Japan *8-1-1*
7. **EDDIE COOK**
   Las Vegas, NV *18-2*
8. **ISRAEL CONTRERAS**
   Venezuela *35-3-1*
9. **HAROLD MESTRE**
   Colombia *16-2*
10. **RAFAEL DEL VALLE**
    Puerto Rico *14-0*

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ANACLET WAMBA**
   France *38-2 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ORLIN NORRIS**
   Campo, CA *36-3*
3. **BOBBY CZYZ**
   Montgomery County, NJ *40-5 (WBA Champ)*
4. **AL COLE**
   Spring Valley, NY *22-1 (IBF Champ)*
5. **NATE MILLER**
   Philadelphia, PA *22-3*
6. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS**
   Las Vegas, NV *18-1-1*
7. **AKIM TAFER**
   France *16-3*
8. **JAMES WARRING**
   Miami, FL *14-2*
9. **MARCELO FIGUEROA**
   Argentina *30-3*
10. **ROBERT DANIELS**
    Miami, FL *23-2-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL**
   Bismarck, ND *35-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **HENRY MASKE**
   Germany *20-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **JEFF HARDING**
   Australia *23-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
   Mansfield, OH *33-5-2*
5. **LEEONZER BARBER**
   Detroit, MI *17-1*
6. **MIKE McCALLUM**
   Brooklyn, NY *44-2-1*
7. **FRANK TATE**
   Houston, TX *32-3*
8. **IRAN BARKLEY**
   Bronx, NY *30-8*
9. **ERNESTO MAGDALENO**
   Westminster, CA *15-0-1*
10. **EGERTON MARCUS**
    Canada *10-0*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **JAMES TONEY**
   Ann Arbor, MI *36-0-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **MICHAEL NUNN**
   Davenport, IA *41-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **CHRIS EUBANK**
   England *35-0*
4. **NIGEL BENN**
   England *33-2 (WBC Champ)*
5. **TIM LITTLES**
   Flint, MI *21-0*
6. **VICTOR CORDOBA**
   N. Ireland *18-5-2*
7. **DARRIN VAN HORN**
   Lexington, KY *53-3*
8. **TONY THORNTON**
   Glassboro, NJ *31-5-1*
9. **FRANK LILES**
   N. Hollywood, CA *23-1*
10. **ANTOINE BYRD**
    Los Angeles, CA *23-4-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS

Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *87-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **JUAN COGGI**
   Argentina *61-2-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **CHARLES MURRAY**
   Rochester, NY *28-1*
4. **CARLOS GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *36-0*
5. **RAFAEL PINEDA**
   Colombia *28-2*
6. **TERRENCE ALLI**
   Linden, NJ *52-8-2*
7. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *7-0*
8. **HECTOR LOPEZ**
   Tarzana, CA *25-2*
9. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Morristown, TN *46-2-1*
10. **VINCENT PHILLIPS**
    Las Vegas, NV *27-0*

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *28-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
   Miami, FL *33-17-4 (IBF Champ)*
3. **TONY LOPEZ**
   Sacramento, CA *42-3-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *36-1*
5. **TRACY SPANN**
   Plainfield, NJ *27-2-1*
6. **JOEY GAMACHE**
   Lewiston, ME *30-1*
7. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Takoma Park, MD *28-0*
8. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France *43-4-2*
9. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON**
   Atlantic City, NJ *18-0-1*
10. **MIGUEL JULIO**
    Colombia *23-1-1*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS

Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana *36-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *27-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *28-3 (IBF Champ)*
4. **JEFF FENECH**
   Australia *26-1-1*
5. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *33-2*
6. **CALVIN GROVE**
   Coatesville, PA *42-5*
7. **REGILIO TUUR**
   Whitestone, NY *32-2-1*
8. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Montebello, CA *7-0*
9. **RENATO CORNETT**
   Australia *23-1-1*
10. **VICTOR HUGO PAZ**
    Argentina *34-1-1*

Terry Norris

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS

Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **SUNG KIL MOON**
   South Korea *19-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **KATSUYA ONIZUKA**
   Japan *20-0 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO BORBOA**
   Mexico *18-4 (IBF Champ)*
4. **THALERNGSAK MAHASARAKAM**
   Thailand *41-3*
5. **ROBERT QUIROGA**
   San Antonio, TX *20-1*
6. **JOHNNY BREDAHL**
   Denmark *18-0*
7. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *24-0*
8. **VINCENZO BELCASTRO**
   Italy *23-5-3*
9. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *25-2-1*
10. **JOEL LUNA ZARATE**
    Mexico *21-0*

FLYWEIGHTS

Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *15-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **PHICHIT SITHBANGPRACHAN**
   Thailand *14-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **DAVID GRIMAN**
   Venezuela *15-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **RODOLFO BLANCO**
   Colombia *26-7-1*
5. **DAVE McAULEY**
   Ireland *18-3-2*
6. **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO**
   Blythe, CA *32-3-1*
7. **JOSE LUIS ZEPEDA**
   Mexico *23-11-2*
8. **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
   Mexico *22-2-1*
9. **SCOTTY OLSON**
   Las Vegas, NV *23-1*
10. **ERIC GRIFFIN**
    Jasper, TN *9-0*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS

Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *27-0 (WBC/IBF Champ)*
2. **MYUNG WOO YUH**
   South Korea *37-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **HUMBERTO GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *35-2*
4. **HIROKI IOKA**
   Japan *22-3-1*
5. **LEON SALAZAR**
   Panama *15-3-1*
6. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *34-4-3*
7. **SHIRO YAHIRO**
   Japan *16-0-1*
8. **JOSE DeJESUS**
   Puerto Rico *26-2-1*
9. **DOMINGO SOSA**
   Dominican Republic *18-1*
10. **ROBINSON CUESTA**
    Panama *23-1*

POUND FOR POUND

Boxing'sl0 Best Fighters, Pound for Pound

1. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Junior Welterweight
2. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
3. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Junior Middleweight
4. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Bantamweight
5. **RIDDICK BOWE**
   Heavyweight
6. **JAMES TONEY**
   Super Middleweight
7. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Junior Flyweight
8. **SUNG KIL MOON**
   Junior Bantamweight
9. **ROY JONES**
   Middleweight
10. **AZUMAH NELSON**
    Junior Lightweight

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Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

March 1984: Fighter Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler. Plus: *The Ring's* annual awards, 1983 fight calender, Carl Williams, Jung-Koo Chang, Chandler-Ruiz (color).

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: *Ring's* ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: *Ring* Olympic Special. Plus: Mark Breland, Sugar Ray Leonard, Frank Bruno, Bramble-Mancini (color), Hatcher-Bumphus (color).

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, James Broad, boxing's best, Julian Jackson, Thomas-Witherspoon.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

March 1985: Fighter Of The Year: Thomas 'Hit Man' Hearns. Plus: Year-end awards, Darrell-Estrada, Nelson-Gomez, Arroyo-Alli.

APRIL 1985

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, British fighters, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Hagler-Hearns, 10 greatest first rounds, Tyson (2-0) rates the heavys, Tubbs-Page.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Carl Williams, Thomas-Weaver, Chavez-Mayweather I.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Camacho-Ramirez, Berbick-Green, Jeff Fenech, John E. Garcia, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986: Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Special year-end awards, 1985 boxing diary, annual ratings, Evander Holyfield, Fenech-Coffee.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, Raging Bull II.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple-Crown. Plus: Triple-crown champs, Matthew Hilton, Carlos Monzon interview, McCallum-Curry.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn—Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Chavez-Rosario, Roger Mayweather, Rocky Lockridge, bleeders, Bruno-Bugner, Fenech-Zarate, Tony Burton.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: George Foreman (color), Mike Tyson, Carlos Monzon, Duran-Leonard III, LaMotta-Dauthuille.

Feb. 1990: Riddick Bowe/Ray Mercer Target . . . Tyson: Plus: The Olympians as pros (color), Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Wepner-Liston, Bobo Olson.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Chavez-Taylor preview, Leonard-Duran III, Tiger Flowers, Muhammad Ali.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before!" By Evander Holyfield. Plus: Muhammad Ali painting, Ali-Liston II, New York welters, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan.

Aug. 1990: His Greatness Confirmed . . . Is Julio Cesar Chavez The Greatest Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, Sullivan & Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler—Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Thanks For The Memories: Rocky Graziano, 1922-1990. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Mike Tyson, Napoles-Leonard, A Gathering Of Champions (color).

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman: Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Marciano-LaStarza, boxing's best chins, Azumah Nelson, Sullivan-Kilrain (color).

Dec. 1990: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Joe Grim, Douglas-Holyfield preview, Marciano-Frazier, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV: Now You'll Pay. Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison, Humberto Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis, heavyweight *Ring* covers (color).

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ. Plus: Charles Murray, Billy Bird, Khaosai Galaxy, Armstrong-Duran, computer flyweight tournament, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Later, Still The Fight Of The Century. Plus: Hometown heroes, George Costner, Galindez-Saad Muhammad, Tony Canzoneri, computer featherweight tournament, Ali-Frazier pinup.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Holyfield-Foreman preview, Norris-Leonard, Freddie Steele, computer lightweight tournament, Tiger-Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be . . . But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Fat, Funny, And Forty-Two, But Certainly No Fraud: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight . . . And The World A Thrill. Plus: Harry Greb, Louis-Conn I, making weight, computer welterweight tournament, Dempsey-Marciano, Holyfield-Foreman (color).

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again—How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, Overrated and Underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, Rating the 44 World Champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

March 1992: Turning Heads—Ray Mercer Makes His Statement To The Heavyweights. Plus: Lou Nova, 1980 Olympic team, boxing cards, Rodrigo Valdes, *Ring's* New Year's wish, Joe Louis-Muhammad Ali, Jack Dempsey (color).

April 1992: Is Evander Holyfield Tough Enough To Stay On Top? Plus: Buddy McGirt, George Foreman, Toney-McCallum, referees, Marvin Hart, Al Hostak, Eusebio Pedroza-Salvador Sanchez, Ketchel-Johnson (color).

May 1992: Fighter Of The Year: James Toney. Plus: Roy Jones, Rocky Graziano, longest title reigns, Myung Woo Huh & Khaosai Galaxy, James Warring, Billy Soose, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: After Mike Tyson's Conviction: What Now? Plus: Buck Smith, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder & Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Foreman-Liston, Tyson (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Larry Holmes On The Big Fight: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Carnival of Champions, Oscar De La Hoya, Haugen-Mancini, Foreman-Stewart, Harry Greb, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Julio Cesar Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Fight The Legends? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez & Nicky Acevedo, alternate careers, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Who'll Stop The Reign? Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Mike Tyson, Tommy Morrison, Chavez-Camacho preview, All-Time Top 10: Australia, Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown, Corbett-Sullivan (color).

Dec. 1992: Foreman vs. Morrison: Should This Fight Happen . . . Will You Watch It? Plus: Ruddock-Lewis preview, Julian Jackson, Al Cole, Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey Museum, Randolph Turpin, Olympic recap, Floyd Patterson (color).

Jan. 1993: Slammin' n' Jammin'—Bowe & Holyfield Go One On One. Plus: The State Of The Game, Gene Fullmer, Chavez-Camacho, Sullivan & Fitzsimmons, Bigfoot Martin, Carmen Basilio (color).

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, Argentina's All-Time Top 10, Fighters of the Year (color).

May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He Good Enough Now? Plus: *The Ring* poll, Freddie Pendleton, Carbajal-Gonzales preview, Benny Leonard, Charley Burley, Lennox Lewis (color).

June 1993: Riddick Bowe, The Man, By LeRoy Neiman. Plus: Ireland's Top 10, Paul Hodkinson, Ray Mercer, James Toney-Iran Barkley, Kennedy McKinney, LeRoy Neiman (color).

July 1993: Pernell Whitaker Asks, "Who's Number One Now, Julio?" Plus: Carbajal-Gonzalez, Richard Steele, The Brawl At The Great Wall, Michael Moorer, Chavez-Haugen (color).

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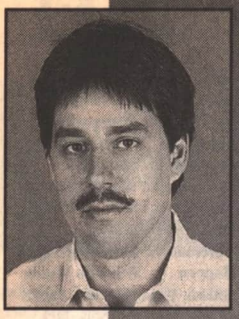


By Jeff Ryan

Ryan Out Loud

R.I.P., M.S.G.

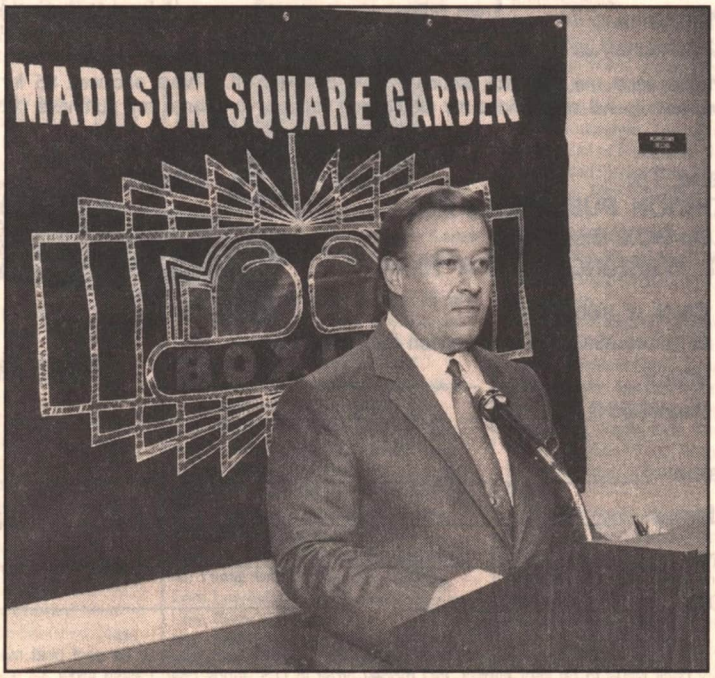
Colleagues who work on newspapers tell me that their publications' computer files contain the obituaries of many famous people, goodies but oldies who might qualify for that big literary send-off at any moment. If the unfortunate event occurs, somebody in the newsroom merely hits a few buttons and—presto—when the reader awakens, he learns that some star of stage or screen did not.

Had I planned ahead in that manner, I would be withdrawing a file called "MSG OBIT" from my computer's memory bank, adding a few details here and there, and then spending the rest of this afternoon on a tennis court or a beach towel instead of a desk chair.

Madison Square Garden boxing is dead; that's the official word. This is news? For at least a decade, Garden boxing was on a respirator whose frayed cord was plugged into the wall of a hospital that never paid the electric bill on time. In May, the Garden's owner, Paramount Communications Inc., decided to cut the gloves off the comatose MSG Boxing Department and pull the plug. Call it murder if you want, but I call it euthanasia.

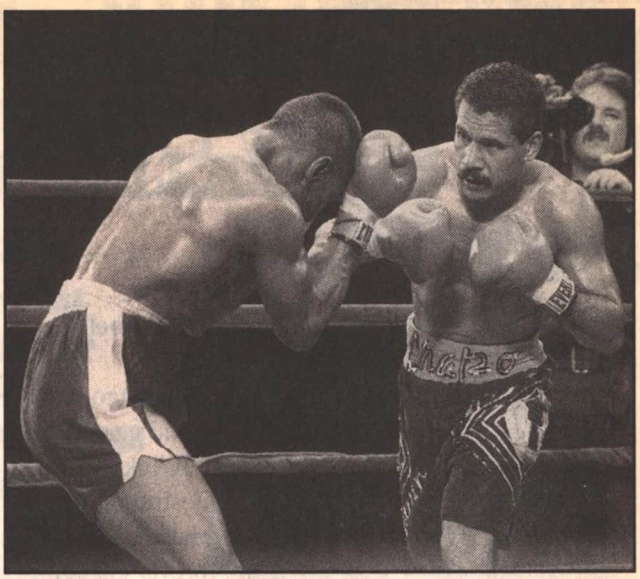
The euthanasia should spare youth in New York any more of the disappointments that had become commonplace under the leadership of Garden boxing boss Bobby Goodman. In the glory days of MSG, kids like top-rated featherweight Kevin Kelley and number-one bantamweight contender Junior Jones would have been as much a fixture in the Garden as the scoreboard. From the time a New York kid ducks his first imaginary punch in the bedroom mirror, he motivates himself with thoughts of winning a world title in the most famous arena in the world.

Bob Goodman has run Madison Square Garden Boxing since 1986. He is keenly aware of the Garden's unmatched boxing tradition, but his bosses at Paramount Communications are concerned with the bottom line.



But if he's Kelley, Jones, or any one of several others, he signs with the MSG Boxing Department and learns that he's about to follow in the footsteps of Big Bird and The Cookie Monster, not Ali and Frazier. In the '80s and '90s, fighting for the suits at MSG usually meant playing the Felt Forum (since renamed The Paramount), a tiny arena in the Garden's basement that had become the home of such events as Sesame Street Live. Sometimes it meant fighting in places like Texas or South Carolina, the Garden's idea of Eighth Avenue South.

Upon learning of the death of



Comebacking former champions like Edwin Rosario (shown kayoing Larry Benson in 1989) and Michael Dokes have been featured players at the Felt Forum (now The Paramount). Couldn't the Garden have offered better main events?

MSG fisticuffs, New York State Athletic Commission Chairman Randy Gordon said (violinists, take your places), "It's kind of like baseball losing Yankee Stadium."

Put away the Kleenex, people. The comparison is silly. The Yankees never vacated their big arena for as much as a year at a time, except for renovations. Don Mattingly hasn't been guarding the first-base line in Macombs Dam Park, the sandlot across the street from the Stadium. "Garden Boxing," however, has really been little more than Felt Forum/Paramount Boxing for several years.

Gordon is one of many New York-area sentimentalists who drip syrup like a stack of pancakes and cling to past glory like a bunch of John Travolta wanted-to-bes who refuse to throw out the polyester shirts they used to wear to Studio 54. They confuse the existence of the MSG Boxing Department with boxing in the Garden, and think the letters M-S-G still have a kind of "magic" in the sweet science. Magic? They must be talking about two heavyweight title fights in the big building in 14 years, and three cards there, total, in the past three years, a disappearing act that Doug Henning would have trouble duplicating.

Indict who you'd like for the death of Garden Boxing. Paramount Communications certainly deserves some of the rap, especially if it's true that Senate hearings testimony linking organized crime and boxing scared the corporate giant out of the fight biz. Why couldn't Paramount wait for proof or further investigations? Acting on charges alone is like a wife throwing out her husband because she heard a rumor that he had been unfaithful.

Circumstances also doomed the Garden. Promoters weren't finding the place appealing because live gates were forever threatened by the TV networks' refusal to black out the gargantuan New York market. And no promoter wanted to pay the Garden rent when he could instead put a big bout in Las Vegas and be paid a hefty site fee by a hotel-casino.

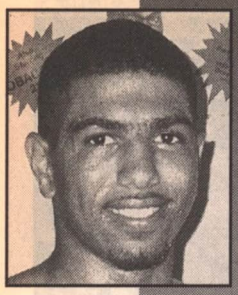
Despite it all, the ultimate blame for this TKO defeat must be placed on the Garden doorstep of Bobby Goodman, the former Don King Productions matchmaker who took over as the MSG boxing boss in 1986. (If I can only get the Eighth Avenue derelicts to move off that doorstep, I will place the blame there, I promise.) Goodman and Company never seemed to value the tradition of the Garden's main arena, choosing instead to promote the southern road tour and stage one garbage card after another at the Felt Forum/Paramount.

Watching a Garden-promoted card almost always meant suffering through a brutal night of pugs getting pulverized by a) fighters under contract to the Garden or b) washed-up veterans, like Michael Dokes or Edwin Rosario, on the comeback trail. Goodman was faced with the dilemma that most Garden fighters weren't big enough to headline the main arena, but that was his own fault. All that soft opposition had done little to build the Garden fighters' credibility among the public.

Don't make the mistake of thinking that I am totally callous about the demise of boxing in the building the sport helped make famous. The Garden once meant a lot to me. I'll always remember how Steve Farhood took me to my first fight there, in my rookie year. (Interesting experience, to be sure, but not exactly like going to that first ballgame with Dad. Farhood wouldn't buy me some peanuts and Crackerjack, and when he put me on the subway home, I don't think he cared if I ever got back.) But don't expect me to play "Taps" over the Garden's corpse, either. I did that many years ago, and I'm not about to evict the spiders that have since taken up residence in the cobwebs covering my trumpet.

The Madison Square Garden Boxing Department is gone. If someone else wants to use words like "sad" and "tragic," let them. I pronounced the patient dead in 1987, a year that there wasn't a single fight in the main arena (if you don't count Rangers hockey games). Back then, the apologists and dreamers told me the Felt Forum was heating up and the Goodman Era was just beginning. Things would be great, just wait and see.

The demise of the Garden? The ink on that story dried an awfully long time ago, and along with it, so did my eyes. ■



New Faces

Ronald "Winky" Wright

Junior Middleweight

By Eric Karabell

Five years ago, a 16-year-old kid named Ronald "Winky" Wright leisurely strolled into the St. Petersburg Boxing Club, forever changing his and a few others' lives. Maybe he was motivated to fight. Maybe he felt a need to get in shape. Or maybe he was looking for a friend.

Nah, he was just bored.

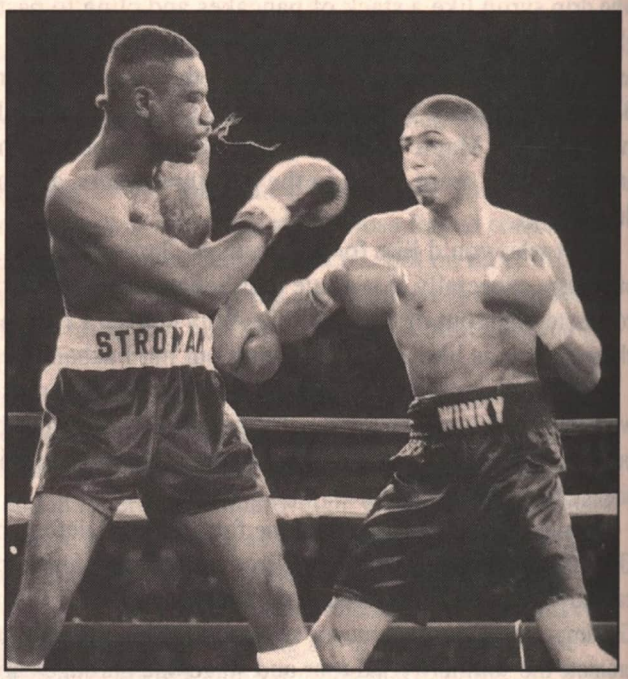
"I just had nothing to do," said the 21-year-old Wright. "I didn't know anybody. Someone told me about this boxing club. When I started, I did it to occupy time. I never thought about turning pro."

Wright knew what he was doing that day, and he knows where he's going now. Only five years later, he's one of the top young fighters in the junior middleweight division. Boxing was certainly the last thing he thought he'd be involved in when, in 1987, his family moved from inner-city Washington, D.C., to the quieter St. Petersburg, Florida. As trainer Dan Birmingham puts it, "he just walked right into the gym one day and started training."

Wright piled up some impressive accolades as an amateur. He won five state titles, and compiled a record of 56-4. His shining achievement was winning the gold medal at the 1990 U.S. Olympic Festival in St. Paul, Minnesota. Fighting at 139 pounds, Wright won a unanimous decision over the top-rated Steve Johnson. He thought about trying for the 1992 Olympics, but the lure of money and the worry that favoritism could hurt his chances of winning a medal convinced him to turn pro in October 1990.

Dan and brother Mike Birmingham have trained Wright since the beginning, and they are managing him along with France's Arye Fain. Wright is the first ranked fighter the Birminghams have trained since they started the St. Petersburg Boxing Club in 1968. But it has been Fain who has helped secure international fights. After 16 fights in Tampa and Orlando, Wright's last three bouts have been in Luxembourg, France, and Germany. His last fight

(Continued on page 58)



Wright reaches for Lennell Stroman

PRO RECORD

1990		
Oct. 16	Anthony Salerno, Tampa	W 4
Nov. 28	Chris Conrad, Tampa	KO 1
Dec. 14	Tony Graham, Hollywood, FL	KO 2
1991		
Jan. 25	Stedroy Bolus, Hollywood	KO 3
Mar. 29	Glenn Major, Tampa	KO 4
July 26	Lorenzo Bouie, Tampa	W 6
Aug. 13	Rocky Fabrizzio, Tampa	W 6
Aug. 30	Edison Martinez, Orlando	KO 1
Sept. 17	Jeff Johnson, Orlando	W 6
Oct. 18	Glenn Major, Tampa	KO 2
Nov. 15	Gary McCall, Tampa	KO 1
Dec. 13	Lennell Stroman, Tampa	W 6
1992		
Feb. 28	Bobby Van, Tampa	KO 3
Mar. 27	Mike Howard, Tampa	KO 4
May 28	Delfino Marin, Tampa	KO 1
Aug. 30	Carlos Santana, Tampa	KO 3
1993		
Jan. 2	Darryl Lattimore, Bettembourg	KO 1
Jan. 31	Roland Commings, Levallois, France	W 8
Mar. 20	Eric Holland, Dusseldorf, Germany	W 8

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
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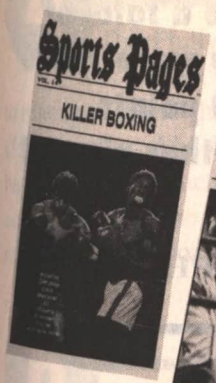

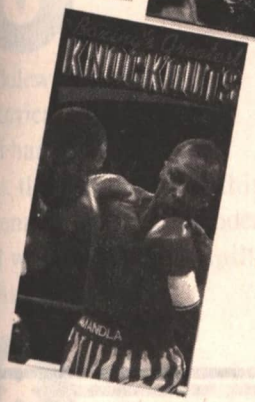

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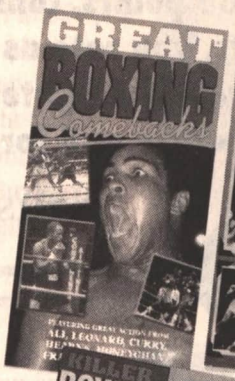

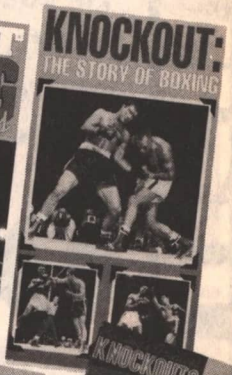

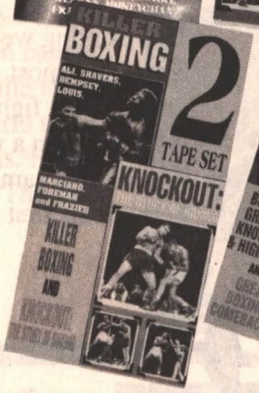

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EXCLUSIVE

THE RINGSIDE

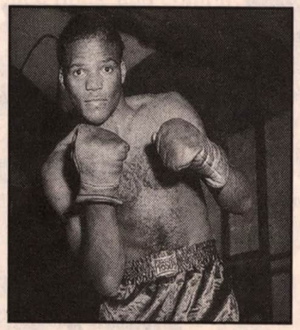
PHOTO QUIZ TEST

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

THIS MONTH: THE FIGHTERS FROM PHILLY

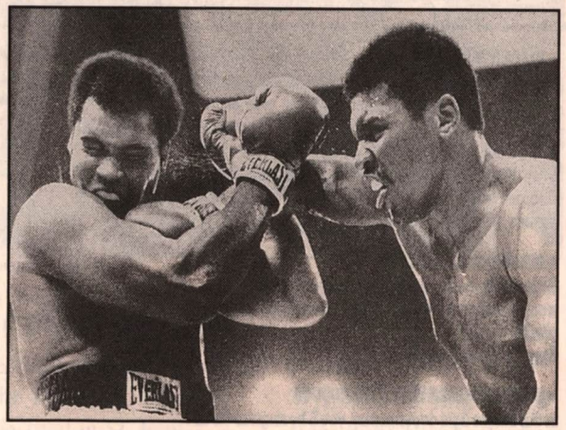
1

This exciting welterweight was among the most popular Philadelphia fighters of all-time. He never won a world title, but beat Ike Williams and gave Gene Fullmer his first career loss.



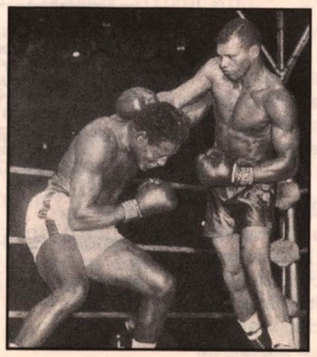
2

Our obligatory Ali question: Believe it or not, there were a couple of punches that landed during "The Greatest's" ugly 1976 defense against this Philly defensive specialist.



3

In this 1953 pairing, former heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles (left) dropped a 10-round decision to a Philly stylist who, eight years later, would win a world title of his own.



YOUR BOXING IQ

4

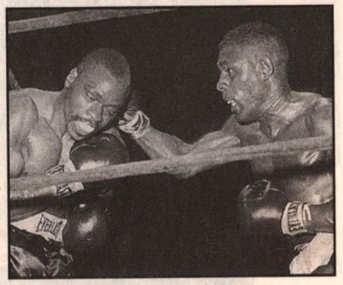
This Philly filly was the first woman to manage a world champion (Jeff Chandler). She didn't have much of a punch, but could whip you into submission with her pony tail.

5

Among the recent Philadelphia world champions was this southpaw junior welterweight (left), shown winning a 1984 12-rounder vs. Brett Lally.

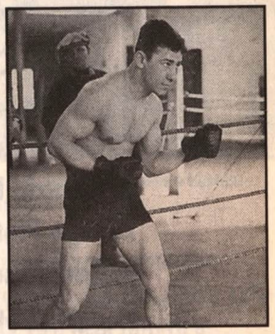
6

When middleweight Rubin "Hurricane" Carter still had hair (in 1963), he took the best shots of this perennial Philly contender and won a 10-round split decision.



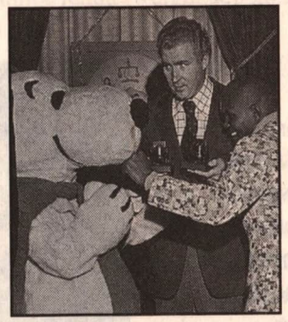
7

This 5'1 ½" Russian-born banger settled in Philadelphia and won world titles in two divisions. His nickname: "The Fish."



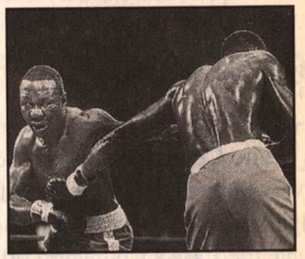
8

No, Snoopy didn't hail from Philly. His adversary was a top-ranked middleweight throughout the '70s. (The guy in the middle isn't Joe Bugner, but rather Philadelphia Deputy Mayor Dan McKenna.)



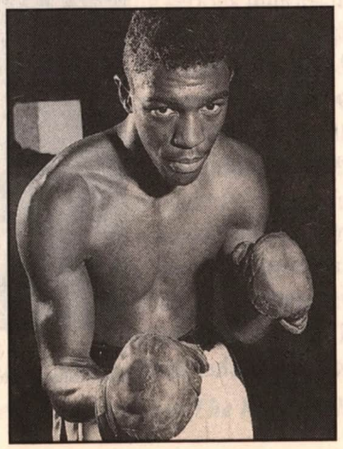
9

The fighter with his back to the camera is Matthew (Saad Muhammad) Franklin. Unlike Saad, his opponent never won a world title. But his son won the biggest prize of all.



10

This lightweight contender, a puncher who peaked in the late-'50s, never fought for the world title. But he was good enough to have halted Kenny Lane (KO 3). He also faced Carlos Ortiz and Doug Valliant.



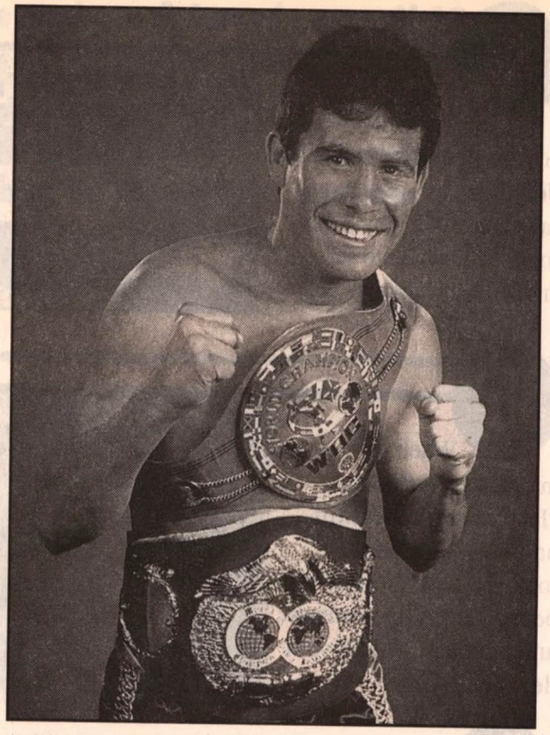
ANSWERS

1) Gil Turner
2) Jimmy Young
3) Harold Johnson
4) "KO" Becky O'Neill
5) Gary Hinton
6) George Benton
7) Benny Bass
8) Bennie Briscoe
9) Billy Douglas
10) Len Matthews

The Best Of A Nation

THIS MONTH:
MEXICO

1. Julio Cesar Chavez
2. Ruben Olivares
3. Miguel Canto
4. Salvador Sanchez
5. Carlos Zarate
6. Ricardo Lopez
7. Lupe Pintor
8. Raul Macias
9. Pipino Cuevas
10. Rafael Herrera



As Julio Cesar Chavez approaches 100-0, he is gaining consideration as not only the best Mexican fighter of all-time, but the best fighter period.

By Bruce Williams

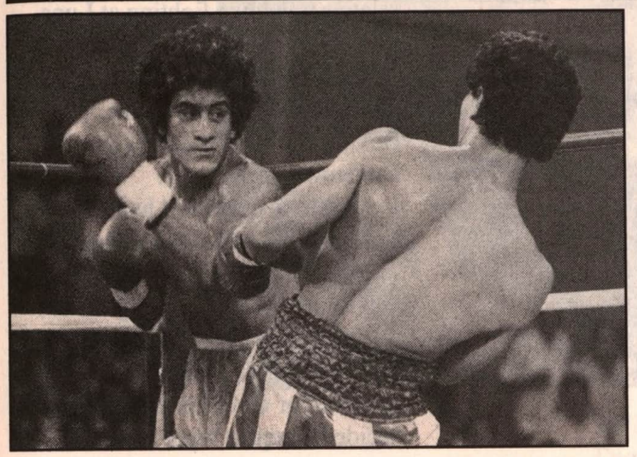
Julio Cesar Chavez is his country's pride, a skilled artisan making every undertaking a success, if not a masterpiece. No professional fighter has ever beaten him in a boxing ring, though 87 opponents have tried. He's won world titles at three weights (junior lightweight, lightweight, and junior welterweight) and has eyes on two more. Although he may be past his peak, he'll go down in history as arguably the most talented boxer of all-time—and definitely the most talented ever produced by Mexico.

•**Ruben Olivares** was the idol of his countrymen, largely because of his paralyzing, fight-ending punches. He stopped 49 of his first 52 foes before winning the world bantamweight crown from Lionel Rose in August 1969. He lost the title to compatriot Chucho Castillo, then won it back. Moreover, he twice won the world featherweight title, further endearing him to his aficionados.

•**Miguel Canto** lost in his first crack at the world flyweight title (in 1973), but came back to win the crown two years later and went on to establish himself as one of the finest boxers ever at any weight. He made 14 defenses of the 112-pound title and went the 15-round distance no less than 17 times. Few fighters of any era could match his defensive skills.

Ruben Olivares was incredibly popular with the fans, who responded to his powerpunching style.

Who was the best British fighter of all-time? The best Mexican? The best Japanese? The debate will rage forever. In an attempt to fuel the fire, or at least offer some perspective, The Ring has asked several of its correspondents to compile their personal top-10 lists.



After Salvador Sanchez kayoed the previously unbeaten Wilfredo Gomez, he was rated as one of the finest featherweight champions in history.

Carlos Zarate, shown vs. Alfonso Zamora, was a bantamweight champion who hit like a lightweight.

•**Salvador Sanchez** died in a 1982 car crash at age 23. The slick, marvelously conditioned counterpuncher reigned as WBC featherweight champion for less than 30 months, but is nonetheless grouped with the finest 126-pound champions in history. He won the title from the hard-punching Danny Lopez (KO 13), beat him in a rematch (KO 14), handed junior featherweight superstar Wilfredo Gomez his first defeat (KO 8), and stopped star-to-be Azumah Nelson (KO 15).

•**Carlos Zarate** reigned as WBC bantamweight king for more than three years. He won his first 50 fights before being kayoed by the bigger Wilfredo Gomez. Zarate's 1977 duel with fellow "Z Boy" and co-bantamweight titlist Alfonso Zamora (KO 4) was one of the most hyped and anticipated non-title fights ever. Zarate was undoubtedly among the hardest-punching bantamweights of all-time.

•**Ricardo Lopez**, like Chavez, is still active, so a final analysis cannot be made. No one has been able to beat him (as an amateur or pro), as he's shown both amazing boxing skills and a deadly punch. As the strawweight division's first great champion, he's bringing a bit of respectability to an otherwise forgotten division. His height should enable him to eventually rise in weight and challenge the best fighters at 108 and 112 pounds.

•**Lupe Pintor** ended Zarate's bantamweight reign via controversial 15-round decision in 1979. His career was filled with headline-making moments; in 1980, he fatally injured Johnny Owen in a title defense (KO 12), and in 1983 he abandoned the title after suffering serious injuries in a motorcycle accident. The barrel-chested left hook machine would rebound to win a world crown at junior featherweight, but was never the same fighter.

•**Raul Macias** was the first great Mexican champion. When fighting in his homeland, he shattered all attendance records. "Raton" won the vacant NBA bantamweight title in 1955 by knocking out Chamrern Songkitrat (KO 11). He made two defenses before being beaten by Alphonse Halimi.

•**Pipino Cuevas** lived by the big punch and ultimately fell by it. The stoic left hooker won the WBA welterweight title in 1976 (at age 18) and made 11 successful defenses, including 10 inside the distance. In 1980, he got caught by a younger fighter with a bigger punch, and was crushed in two rounds by Thomas Hearns. He fought on, but never fully recovered from that humiliation.

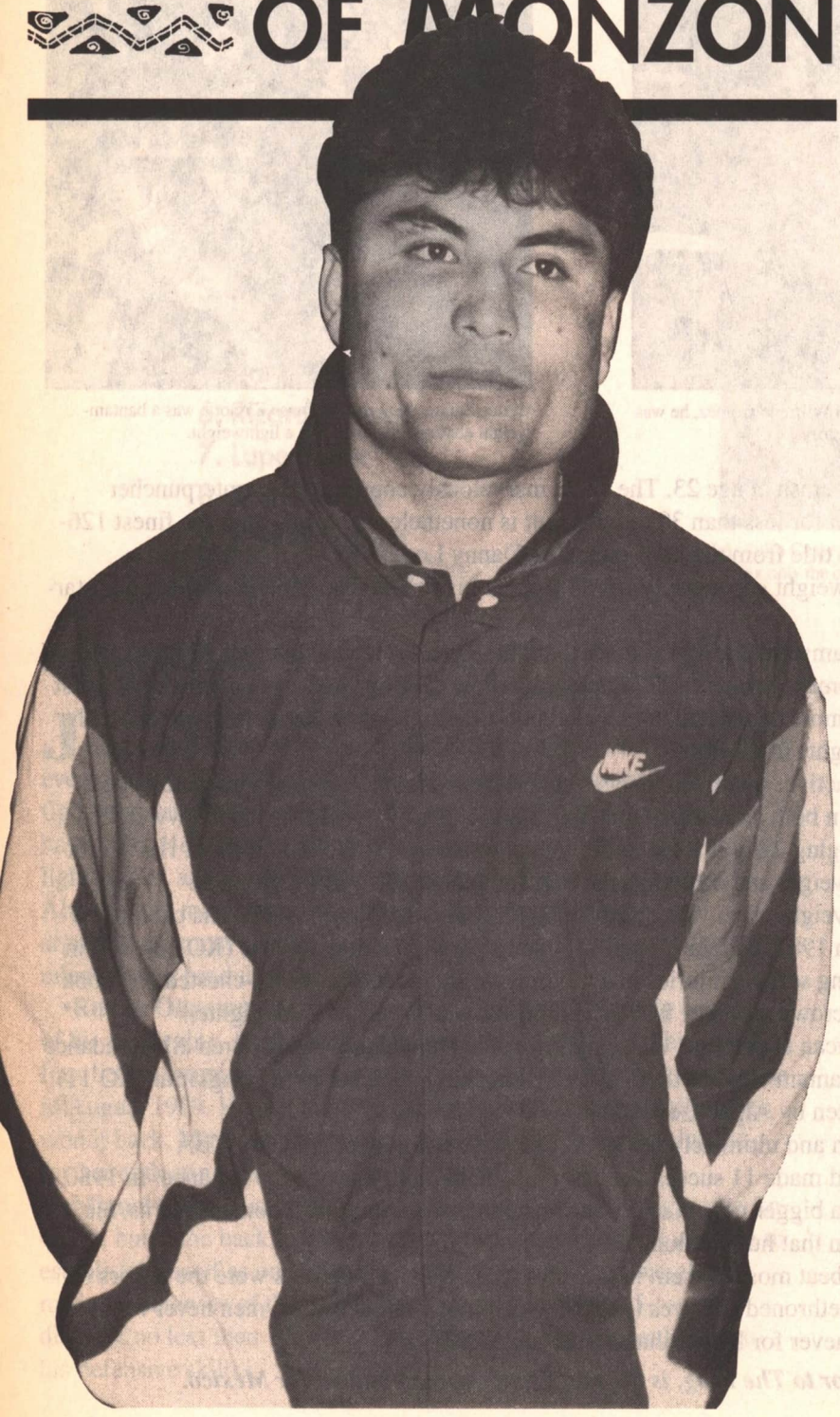
•**Rafael Herrera** fought them all and beat most of them in the days when Mexican fighters were the terrors of the bantamweight division. In 1972 he dethroned Olivares (KO 8), which many of his countrymen never forgave him for. He held the title twice, though never for longer than a year-and-a-half. ■

Bruce Williams, a frequent contributor to The Ring, is the magazine's correspondent for Mexico.

THE OTHER JULIO CESAR:

J.C. VASQUEZ

IN THE TRADITION OF MONZON



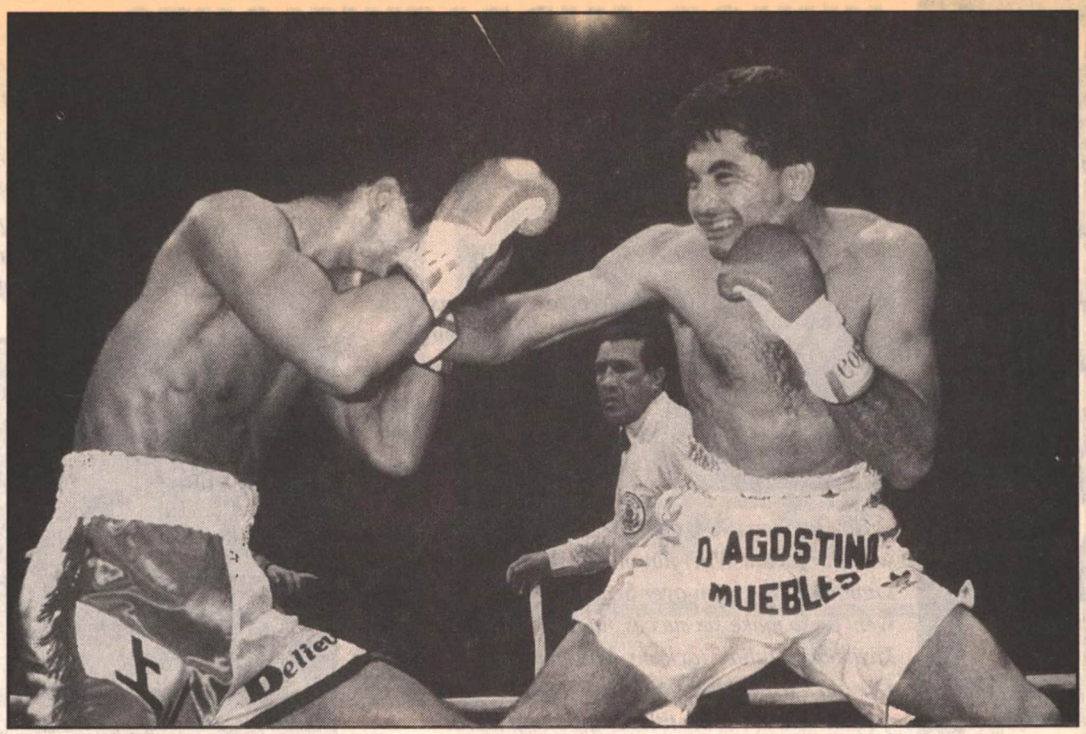
By Carlos Irusta

When Argentina's Julio Cesar Vasquez was born in July 1966, future middleweight champion Carlos Monzon was a relative unknown fighting at Luna Park. During that time, Ismael Donato Vasquez was a boxer representing the Aldrovandi Boxing Club in Monzon's hometown of Santa Fe.

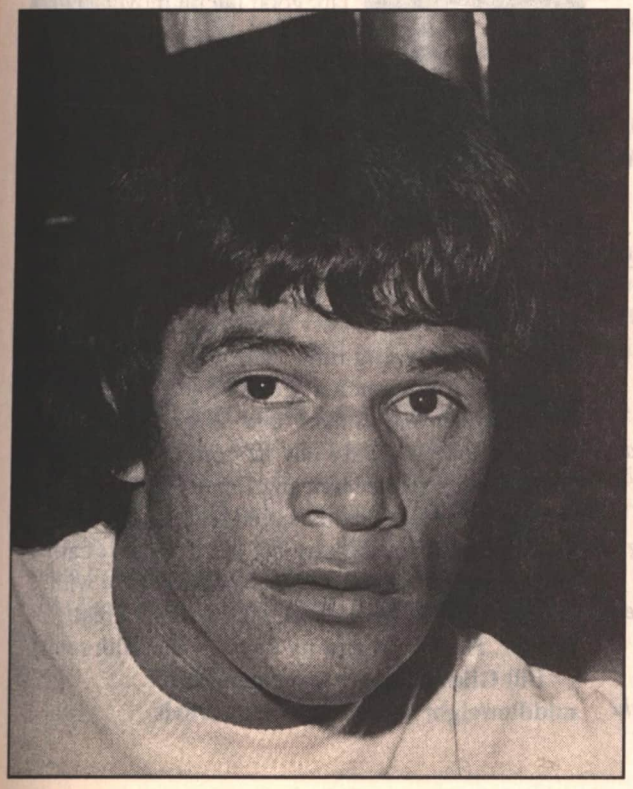
Donato married and had five children, and when one of them, Julio Cesar, was 15, his father took him to the Monzon Boxing Club. It was there that Jose Lemos, a former boxer who managed Monzon for all of his pro career, decided Vasquez wasn't a real boxing prospect. But after Lemos said no, Tito Agrafogo said yes, and a brilliant career was born.

"I had only five amateur fights under his direction, and then I moved to the Moncada brothers gymnasium," said Vasquez, who reigns as the WBA junior middleweight champion. "I had 11 more fights and decided to quit boxing. I never liked to study or work, but in those years I thought boxing was not for me. One day I changed my mind. Lemos was around my house every day trying to convince me to fight again. So I agreed to work with him, and I made my professional debut at Luna Park Stadium [in June 1986]."

Santa Fe is not only rich in boxing history, but in other sports as well. Besides Vasquez, former WBC light heavyweight champion Miguel Angel Cuello and current WBA junior welterweight champion Juan Martin Coggi hail from Santa Fe. The current governor, Carlos Alberto Reutemann, is a former Formula One race driver. Leopoldo Jacinto Luque was a member of Argentina's



Vasquez, pummeling Hitoshi Kamiyama (above), hopes to match the greatness of legendary middleweight king Carlos Monzon (below). Like WBA junior welterweight champion Juan Coggi (bottom right), Vasquez hails from the city of Sante Fe.



1978 world championship soccer team. Diego Walter Degano is a four-time world champion in swimming. But Monzon is still the biggest hero from the province.

"He was a monster, he was great," said Vasquez, who still resides in Sante Fe. "But in those years when I started in boxing, Monzon was not a friend of mine. Monzon was more than a world champion. He was a great fighter and a tremendous champion.

"I used to practice a lot with Carlos Herrera, a southpaw who was very powerful. [Herrera lost to Maurice Hope for the WBC super welterweight title in 1980.] We trained together and he gave me a lot of punishment, but I improved a lot thanks to him.

"I like soccer, too, and I used to play it, but boxing is my business, especially now, because I'm the world champion. My goal will be to be remembered, if I can, not only as a great champion, but as great as Monzon was."

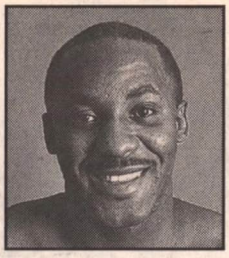
(Continued on page 59)

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of the Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.

Mike McCallum

Brooklyn, New York
Career: 1981-Present
44-2-1 with 34 kayos



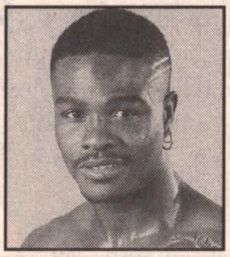
One of the most underrated champions of the '80s, McCallum is smooth and skilled, and possesses one of the best chins in the game. But his most valuable asset is his ability to adjust to his opponent's style.

In October 1984, the Jamaican-born technician won the vacant WBA junior middleweight title with a unanimous decision over Sean Mannion. McCallum went on to make six successful defenses, including kayos over Julian Jackson, Milton McCrory, and Donald Curry. After jumping to middleweight, he won the vacant WBA title, outpointing Herol Graham in May 1989. Three defenses later, he was stripped for meeting IBF champion James Toney, and not former victim Steve Collins. McCallum drew with Toney and lost the rematch.

Now 36, McCallum campaigns at light heavyweight. He was at his best, however, at junior middleweight. Sort of the Terry Norris of his day.

Terry Norris

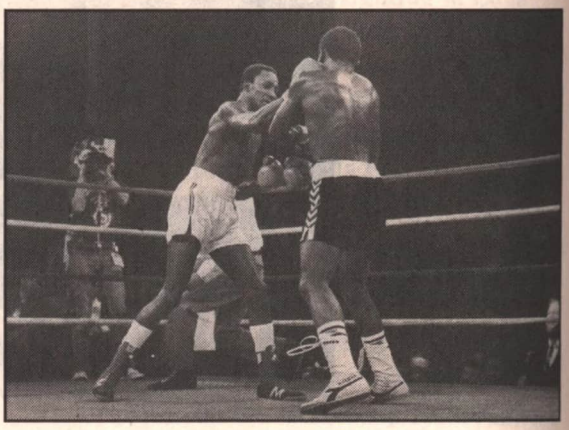
Mission Valley, California
Career: 1986-Present
34-3 with 20 kayos



One loss can ruin a fighter. But after Norris was kayoed by Julian Jackson (in a July 1989 title fight), he rebounded to become a world champion, and one of the best fighters, pound for pound, in boxing.

A speed demon with improved power, Norris developed at a moderate pace before being annihilated by Jackson in two rounds. Only eight months later, he received a second opportunity and needed less than a round to dethrone WBC super welterweight titlist John Mugabi.

Norris has since made eight defenses, including victories over Sugar Ray Leonard, Donald Curry, Meldrick Taylor, and Maurice Blocker. He has been criticized for facing faded fighters and blown-up welterweights, but his performances have nonetheless been dominant. A move to middleweight should come soon.



McCallum earned a title try by knocking out former 154-pound champion Ayub Kalule in November 1982. The Jamaican-born boxer-puncher remained unbeaten over the first seven years of his career.

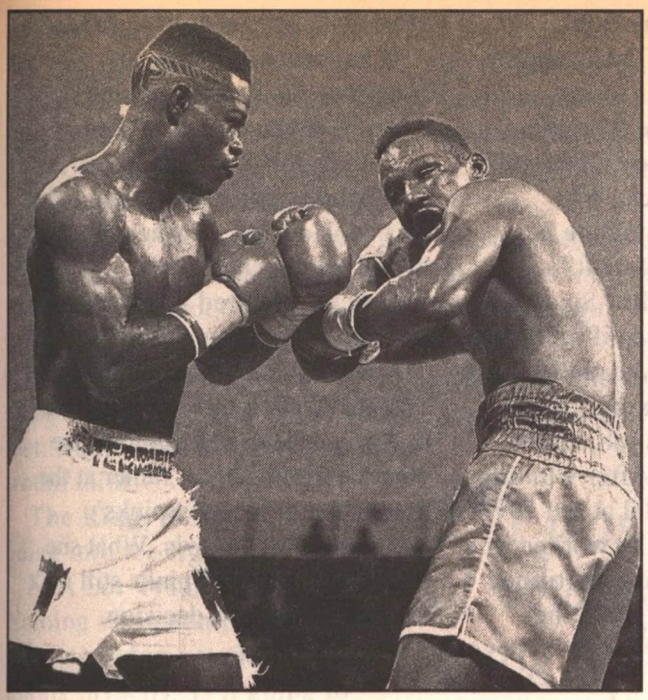
BILL GILES

Norris is a good athlete. He has good hand speed, a good jab, good lateral movement. And he's a good counter-puncher. How well he can take shots is hard to tell because he's fought a lot of old men. He hasn't moved to middleweight because he's scared of Julian Jackson. Julian didn't just knock him out, he knocked him out *cold*. Terry's gonna remember that.

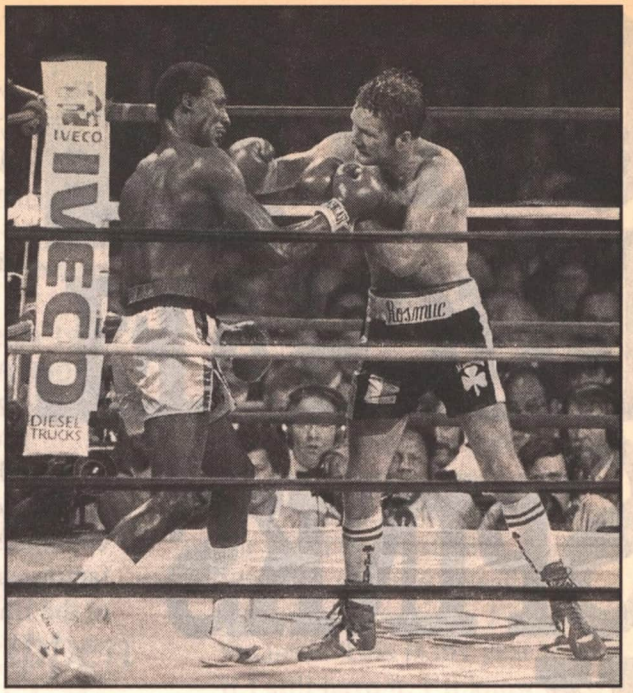
McCallum was maybe the best junior middleweight ever. Very underrated. He was around at the wrong time, with Hearns and Leonard. Good puncher, good boxer, great bodypuncher and thinker, and he beat good competition. The only guy he couldn't have beaten was Leonard. I make him and Hearns pick-'em.

Norris would use his speed, box and move, and try and keep the guy off his body. McCallum would use his brains, and wear him down with counters to the body. McCallum was a great fighter. He would win by kayo in the 10th round.

Bill Giles manages top-rated junior middleweight contender Aaron Davis.

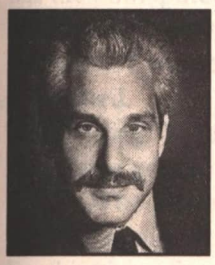


Norris has retired two of the best fighters of the '80s, Sugar Ray Leonard and Donald Curry (pictured). The junior middleweight division offers little competition, and he'll soon jump to middleweight.



McCallum won his first world title by outpointing Sean Mannion in October 1984. He was an underrated 154-pounder, fighting in the shadows of Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler, and Thomas Hearns.

AL BERNSTEIN



If both champions were at their best, this would be a good matchup. Norris is quick and has great hand and foot speed, and those are things that make him the special fighter that he is. McCallum was a dominant champion, but when he fought guys that were of the caliber of Norris, he had some problems. At this point, Norris is so fast, and he has great ring awareness.

One thing about McCallum: He's been very consistent, and he's a terrific bodypuncher. He always needed some kind of target to hit, but in this matchup he might not get it because Norris wouldn't stand right in front of him. I think quickness here is a big deal.

A key to the fight could also be the jab. McCallum has a great jab from time to time; it's an underused weapon. Norris would also need to use his jab. Hand speed would be the difference and would ultimately get Norris the victory. In a very entertaining fight, I give the decision to Norris. It would be close but unanimous.

Al Bernstein is the boxing analyst for ESPN.

VINNY PAZIENZA

This would be a good fight, one I would definitely pay to see, and there's not too many fights now I would pay to see. I used to train with McCallum, and I think he was one of the best fighters around. He never got the credit he deserved because he came up with Sugar Ray Leonard, Hagler, and Hearns. He was overshadowed a lot.

McCallum is a great bodypuncher and could really hit with some force. I could see him being too strong for Norris. Norris has good hand speed and also throws good punches. He's very fast and slippery and has a good all-around game. I could see the fight ending in a knockout, but I'm not sure who would be the recipient of the punch. Other guys are equal except for speed, which is in Norris' favor. If it went to a decision, I would pick Norris. But if someone goes down, it would also be Norris. I know McCallum can take a punch, and we all know Norris can't. I know I'm going to be the only one to say this, but I have to say it will be a draw.

Vinny Pazienza is a former lightweight and junior middleweight champion. ■

ONLY MICHAEL SPINKS KNOWS WHAT HE THINKS

The Comeback Rumor that Won't Go Away

You can't come back if you don't first retire. That philosophy has been shared by Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, Larry Holmes, and a handful of heavyweight champions before them. After Michael Spinks was kayoed by Mike Tyson in June 1988, the former world champion, age 32, said goodbye to boxing.

"I won't do it," he said when the talk of a comeback began. "It'll never happen. I'll never strap on a pair of gloves for a real fight."

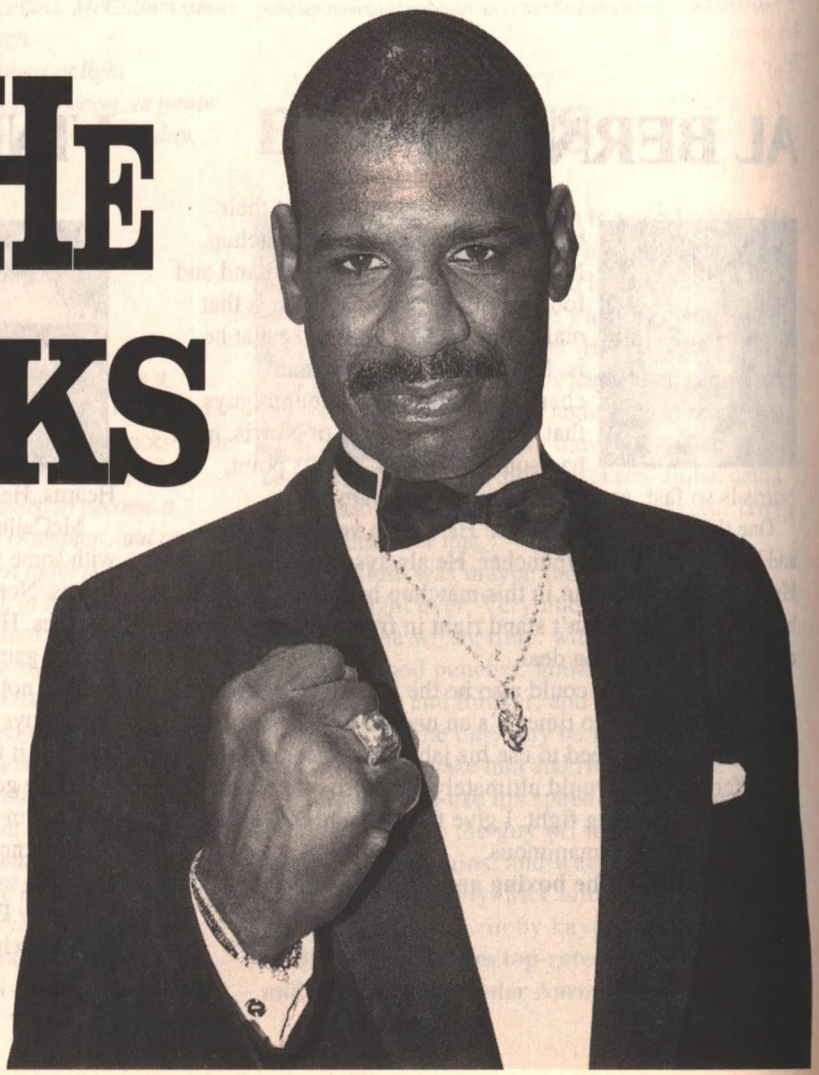
The tendency was to say, "Yeah, right. They all come back. Why should he be different?"

But Spinks *was* different. He never really liked boxing. It was his job, and it paid well. After winning a gold medal at the 1976 Olympics, he worked in a factory, and only turned to the ring when the chemicals started getting to him.

If anyone was going to announce his retirement and mean it, it was Spinks. Then...

The rumors began last year, and Spinks didn't deny them. He *was* considering a comeback. It would all depend on his chronically injured knees. If only he could regain his mobility.

Spinks' comeback remains only a rumor. Well, will he or won't he? In April, Arlene Schulman spoke with the future hall of famer at the Manhattan offices of Spinks' promoter, Butch Lewis. What she found out was that Spinks still isn't in a rush to make a decision.



The Ring: The last time we saw you in a ring, you were knocked out for the first and only time in your career by Mike Tyson. What did it feel like?

Michael Spinks: When you get knocked out, it's like turning the lights off and then turning them back on. Your power is cut off. You have no more control. It's just black. It looks worst when you're trying to get to your feet. But it's not as painful as you would think.

The Ring: Were you afraid going into the fight?

MS: For Tyson I was a wreck. Nothing was panning out. As the fight started to get closer, I kept asking myself, "Is it going to work? Is it my time?" Fear was knocking on my door big time. I was afraid of what was going to happen to me. I didn't want to lose my life in the ring.

Tyson, that was not my night. I could have been undisputed. Leon (Spinks' brother) was. Leon was the undisputed champion. I was just the heavyweight champion. I wanted to retire undefeated.

The Ring: What do you miss most since you've retired?

MS: Who retires at 31 or 32? That's unheard of. That's why I'm thinking of returning to boxing—because I want to work. I miss work, not the crowd, really. You're always scared that you're not going to do well. You don't want to have to get off of the canvas. I miss getting the (boxing) family together and the paydays. I miss the paydays. And knowing that I'm working. A retired fighter working with young fighters is not a good thing because he may find his way back in there.

The Ring: Are you finding your way back?

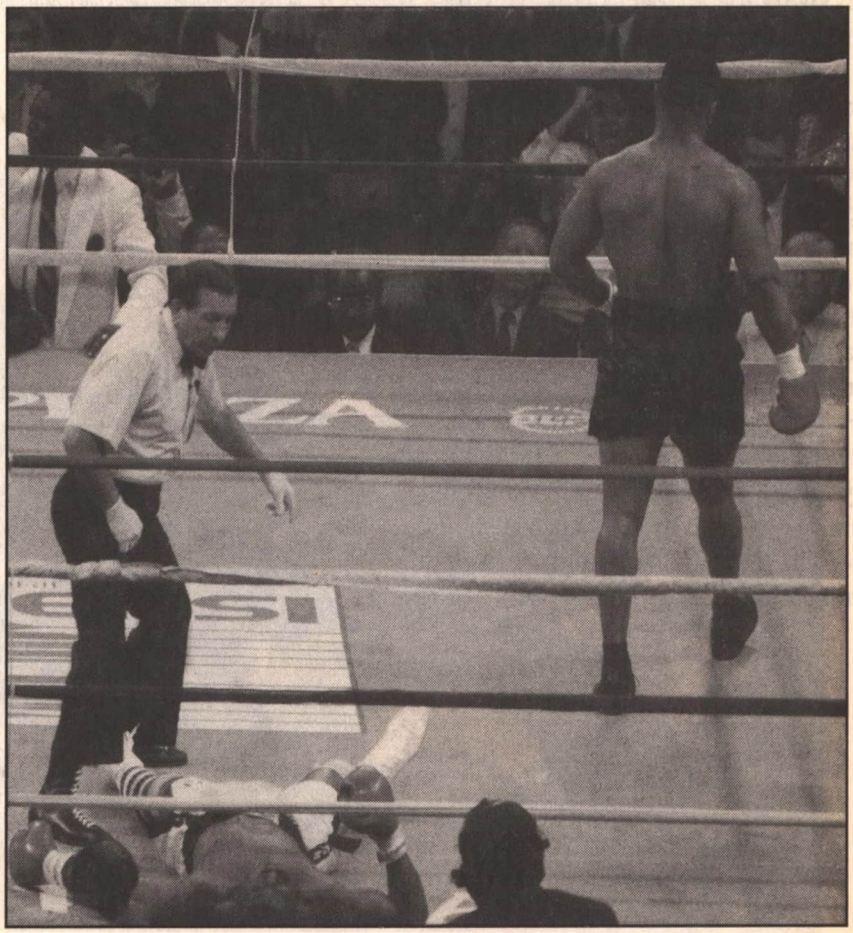
MS: I'm contemplating a comeback because of the way that I left. I wasn't able to perform the way I wanted to. I couldn't straighten out the knee problems. I'm devoting this year to trying. I'll be undergoing muscle therapy on my knees and then working out. I've started running again.

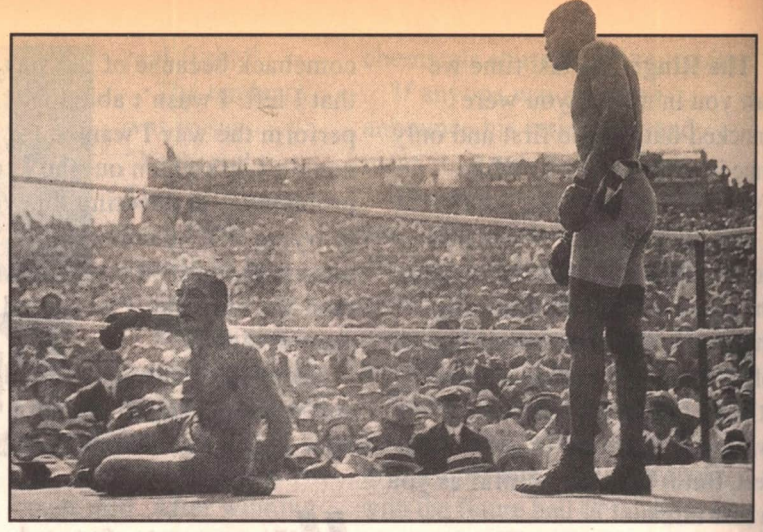
From 1979 through 1988, I felt sort of handicapped with my knee problems. No one knew to what extent. I'm a pretty good actor. I put a bluff down that could have persuaded anyone. I had to put my career behind me because of my knees. I was forced out. I can't move. I can't run. My legs are very instrumental for my success, to position myself and deliver punches. Without them I saw how good I wasn't. I used to be untouchable.

"I was afraid of what was going to happen to me. I didn't want to lose my life in the ring."

George Foreman had a second life much better than the first one. I would do something better for me. The question is, can I? Should I go for it? Yeah! Nothing hurts to see. I'm going to check. This is my year to see if I still have it. I'll know once I start getting a workout. And if Butch tells me that I don't have a chance, then I won't do it. But I'll know by the end of the year. □

Spinks' last ring appearance: A first-round blowout loss to Mike Tyson in June 1988.



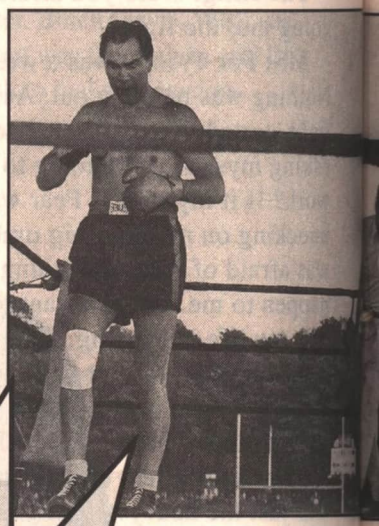


THE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPS
WHO CAME BACK

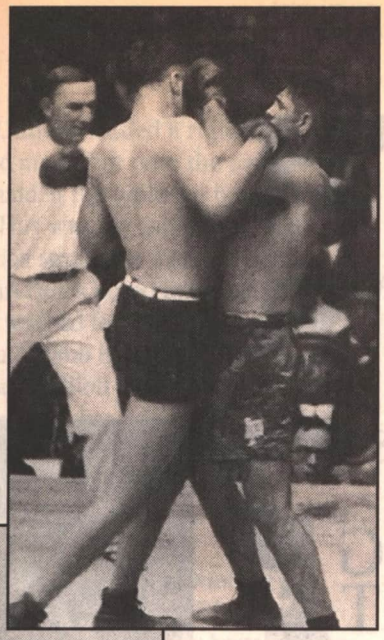
A boxer's retirement should be taken as seriously as a politician's campaign promise. If the smell of liniment and the sound of the speedbag don't prove to be addictive, fame and megabuck purses will.

If comebacks were listed by division, the heavyweights would finish first. Heavyweight comebacks date back to John L. Sullivan and James J. Corbett, the first two world champions of the modern era. Almost all comebacks, of course, end with losses. Jim Jeffries fell to Jack Johnson, and Joe Louis was stopped by Ezzard Charles and Rocky Marciano. But in recent years, George Foreman and Larry Holmes have proven that even if yesterday's heroes don't regain the title, they can make a lot of money in failing.

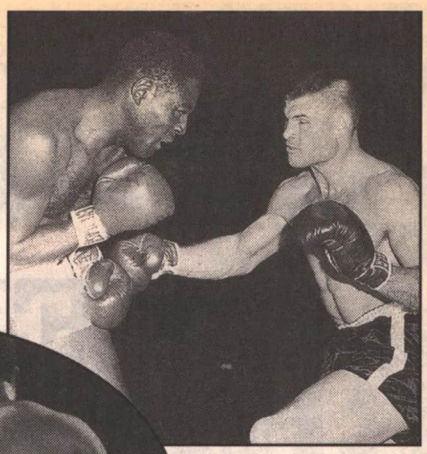
Here's a look at some of the former heavyweight champions who retired only until they found an excuse to fight again. By the end of the year, we should know whether Michael Spinks will be joining them.

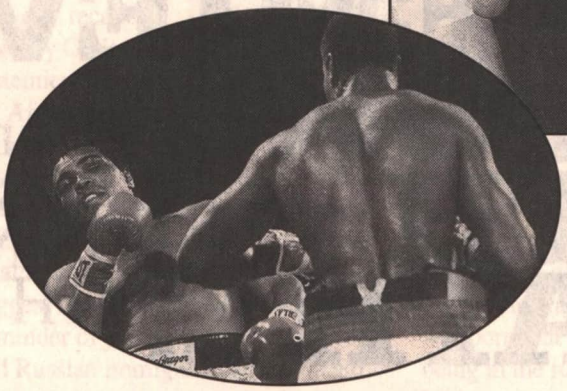


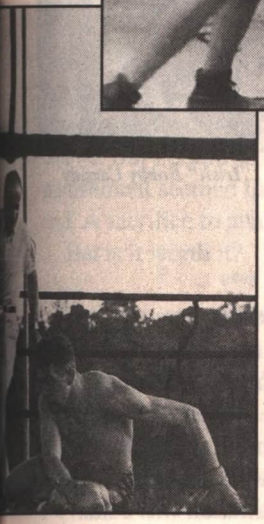
One of the first former heavyweight champions to come back was Jim Jeffries, who was kayoed by Jack Johnson in 1910 (above). Eighty-two years later, Larry Holmes earned a try at the world title by outpointing Ray Mercer (above left). Max Schmeling returned to the ring after World War II and kayoed Werner Vollmer in 1948 (right). George Foreman's comeback was both financially and artistically successful, as evidenced by his 1990 knockout of fringe contender Adilson Rodrigues (below).

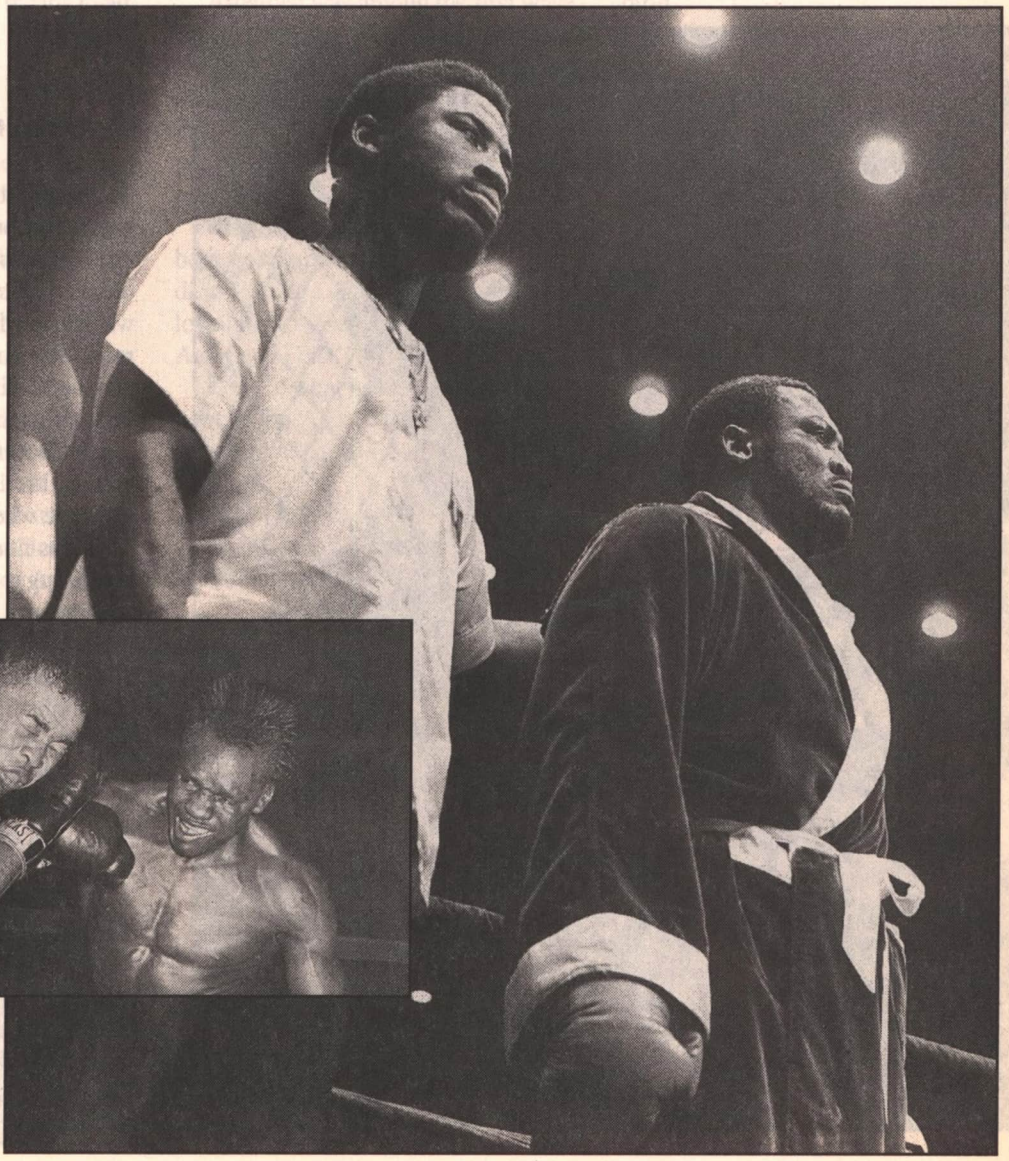


Jess Willard's comeback was halted by Luis Firpo, who, in 1923, stopped the former champion in eight rounds (left). Long past his prime, Ezzard Charles suffered a 1958 kayo loss to Donnie Fleeman (right). Muhammad Ali fought without life in his 1980 title try vs. Larry Holmes (below).





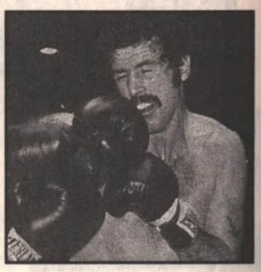




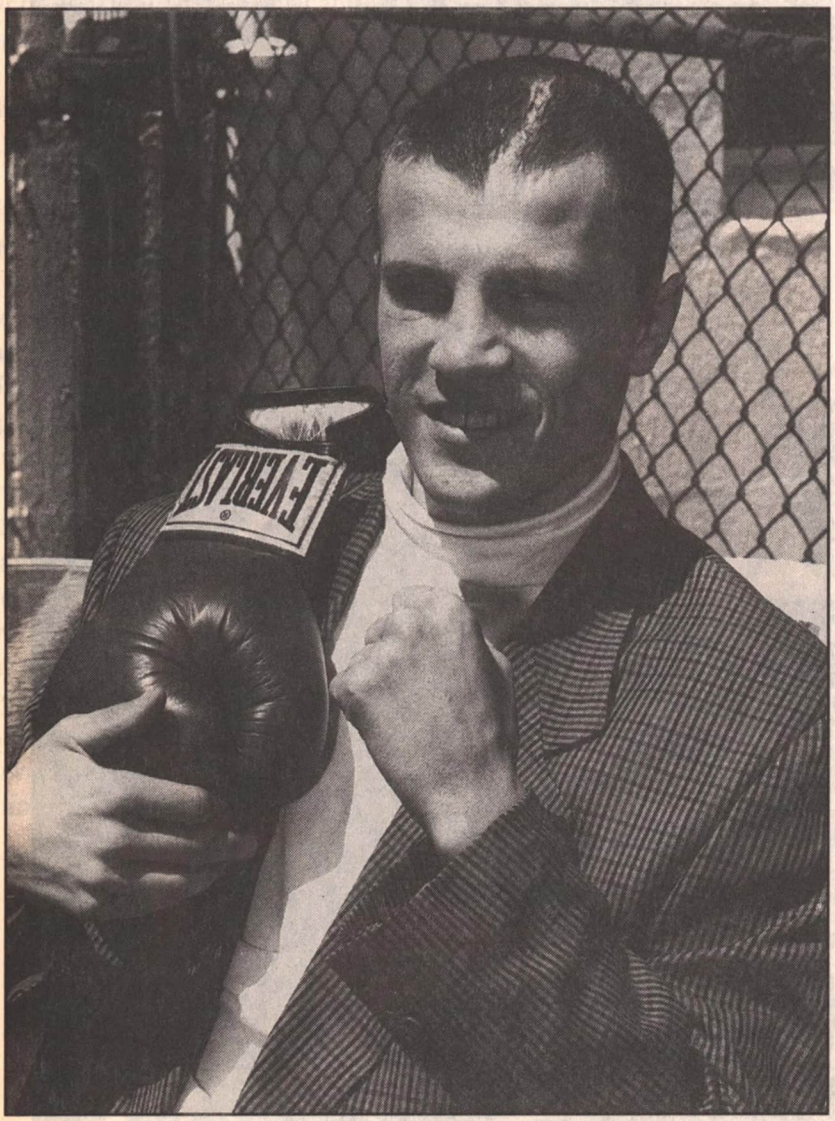
When Joe Frazier came back to face Jumbo Cummings, his son Marvis, a heavyweight prospect, was by his side (right). Frazier and Cummings struggled to a 10-round draw in 1981. One of Joe Louis' comeback victories was a 10-round decision over Omelio Agramonte in 1951 (below).

IN THE AFTERMATH OF ARTEMIEV'S BRUSH WITH DEATH

A Fighter's Son Asks: IS BOXING WORTH IT ...?



"Irish" Bobby Cassidy

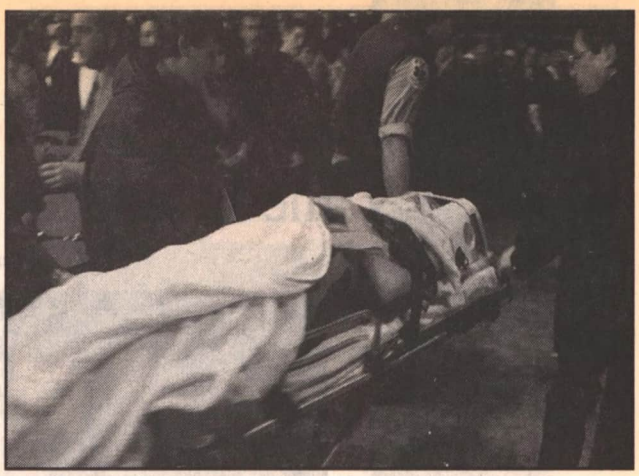


By Robert Cassidy

I never thought about my father getting seriously injured. Never. It just didn't enter my mind. I was deemed old enough to attend his fights when I was nine. My initiation was a first-round stoppage of Juan Aguilar at the Nassau Coliseum. After the fight, my father, light heavyweight contender "Irish" Bobby Cassidy, promised to buy my brother and me a Play World toy store when he won the world title. That was fine with both of us. Boxing was going to help get us a Play World.

I saw my father fight in person six more times over the next two years and, as I had come to expect, he won each fight. The action in the ring was almost abstract to me. Yes, there was a man up there hitting my father, but my father was hitting him back harder. The violence and the pain were distant to me.

That perspective changed on June 18, 1977, when my father fought Christy Elliott at the Long Island Arena. I was sitting ringside. Elliott, who represented Ireland in the 1972 Olympics, entered the ring to the sound of bagpipes, and my father came in to the theme from *Rocky*. In the first



Artemiev was rushed to Atlantic City Medical Center after collapsing.

round, Elliott landed a right hand and spilled my father onto the canvas. All of a sudden the violence became real. This was my father, my hero.

Elliott strutted to a neutral corner with his hands raised in the air. My father reached for the bottom rope so he could climb back to his feet. He beat the count. Elliott came across the ring. He fired punches. My father fired back. Then, suddenly, Elliott was down.

My heart was pounding and my stomach churning. This was scary. This was a fight.

My father wound up winning a unanimous 10-round decision, and I saw for the first time how brutal boxing can be. But I could still justify it. The punishment seemed like a means to an end. A sacrifice to attain a larger goal.

But is it worth it?

***

The scar starts in front of his left ear. It moves toward the middle of his skull before curving, like a fish hook, and ending at the top of his forehead. From a distance it almost looks like a part in the middle of Sergei Artemiev's hair. No matter how hard you try not to notice the scar, it is really all you see.

On March 21, in Atlantic City, Artemiev collapsed after his USBA lightweight title fight against Carl Griffith was stopped in the 10th round. He underwent four hours of surgery to relieve the pressure a blood clot was applying to his brain. When Artemiev was rushed to the Atlantic City Medical Center, the doctors' prognosis wasn't good. "They said it was touch and go," recalled Tommy Gallagher, Artemiev's trainer.

After surgery, Artemiev was placed in a chemically induced coma to keep him stable. Twelve days later he was taken out of it. He will never box again, but he has already won the biggest fight of his life. The scar is a reminder of just how close the 24-year-old Russian immigrant came to death.

Artemiev was among the first wave of Russian fighters to turn pro in the United States. He came to pursue his dream of winning a world title and reap the kind of financial rewards that were unattainable in his homeland. They are now unattainable here, too.

"Everything I've done in my life has been boxing," he said. "I'm very disappointed I can't box anymore. I loved to box. I always trained right. And now I can't box."

Despite what has happened, junior lightweight Alex Artemiev, Sergei's older brother, says he will continue fighting.

"It could have happened to anyone in the ring," he said.

Artemiev has had wife Belina and trainer Tommy Gallagher beside him all along.

Sergei Artemiev does not remember the fight against Griffith. He remembers certain things and not others. He remembers the date his son was born, but he doesn't remember being in the room when his wife gave birth.

As a result of his head injury, he has lost the peripheral vision in his right eye, and there are times when he needs assistance walking. He will now embark on a long and intense rehabilitation period at the rate of $1,000 a day. That is in addition to $30,000 in medical bills he has already accrued. It is money he does not have.

Is boxing worth it?

***

"It's never worth it," said Ron Katz, the Top Rank matchmaker who made the Artemiev-Griffith bout.

Boxing is certainly not worth losing a life for. But how many things are?

"You could step off a street corner and get hit by a car," said Katz. "How many construction workers get killed every year? Every human being has a God- given right to chose what he wants to do. There are risks in boxing. They've chosen this sport, and sometimes it involves death, and a lot of times it involves injury. Sergei knew the risks. Unfortunately, he had a career-ending injury. Modern technology allows us to insure the safety of a fighter as best we can."

***

In 1971, my father fought Rodrigo Valdes at Madison Square Garden. He was stopped in the seventh round on cuts. He bled from above and below

(Continued on page 61)

With files of more than three million black-and-white and color negatives, *The Ring* magazine photo collection is by far the largest in the world. Each issue, we'll pore through the files to bring you some of the most unique boxing photographs ever taken

Time Capsules

By Stanley Weston

FAIR EXCHANGE

(June 28, 1948)

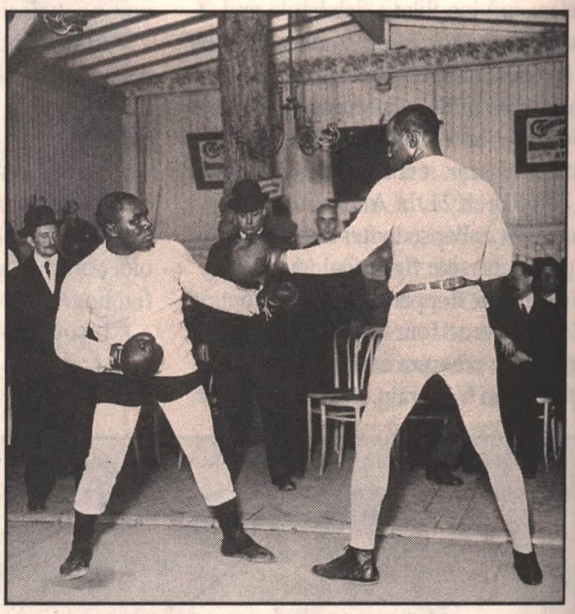
His left eye still swollen from Jersey Joe Walcott's blows absorbed three days before, heavyweight champion Joe Louis accepts his paycheck from promoter Mike Jacobs for his successful title defense at New York's Yankee Stadium on June 25. In return, Louis presents Jacobs with the gloves he used to stop Walcott in the 11th round.

As the exchange was made and the cameras clicked, Joe recited his short, carefully rehearsed speech: "Thank you for the check, Uncle Mike. I sure can use it. I want you to have these gloves I used in the Walcott fight because that was my last fight. I'm not gonna fight again ... except maybe with my wife."

Wrong. Two years later Joe was back in action, against Ezzard Charles, trying unsuccessfully to regain the title he had relinquished. But even that wasn't the end. The shell of what was once the unforgettable "Brown Bomber" racked up eight straight victories. Then came the night of October 26, 1951, a night all of us wish we could forget. That was the night the curtain finally dropped on Joe Louis. That was the night a young bull named Marciano pleaded with the referee to stop the fight so that he wouldn't have to continue punishing the man he idolized.

GOOD BIG MAN, GREAT LITTLE MAN

(December 19, 1919)



This picture was taken in an East St. Louis restaurant that was often used as a training camp from about 1913 to 1927. Many famous boxers of that era sharpened their skills for important fights in the well-kept wood building where admission was free, but spectators were expected to buy at least a couple of drinks. On this particular day, the place was packed. Even the other fighters in training stopped hitting bags and skipping rope to watch the towering giant spar with the "midget." Although the enormous size disparity smacked of carnival, these were anything but circus freaks. Both were world-renowned boxers, too good for their own good.

The little fellow on the left is Sam Langford, who to this day is listed among the five greatest fighters, pound for pound, who ever lived. The big guy is Bill Tate, whose reputation came not from impressive ring victories, but rather from offering his huge frame for target practice. Big Bill never even got close to a shot at the title, but he reigned supreme as the "World Champion Sparring Partner." Tate once said, "I never could get enough fights to keep a roof over my head. But I was always turning down work sparring because there wasn't enough time."

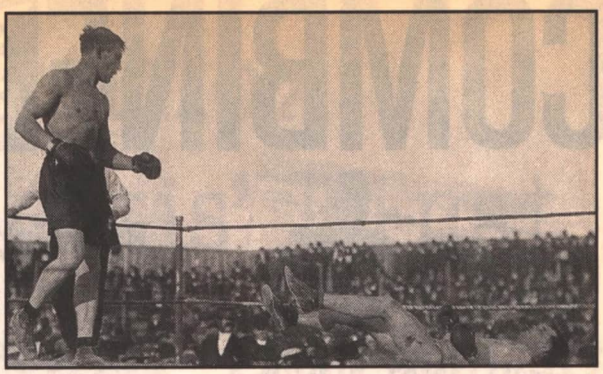
Langford fared much better than Tate getting fights because Sam had a marvelous manager in Joe Woodman. It was Woodman who saw possibilities in a "relationship" between Sam and Bill. In a 1946 interview with *The Ring*, Woodman recalled, "The biggest problem for great colored fighters like Sam and Bill was getting top white fighters into the ring. So there was a lot of empty time between fights. Sam was only a middleweight, but he loved to haul off on big guys. Remember how he handled [Jack] Johnson? I figured I could do good business with Langford and Tate, playing up the enormous difference in size. And I knew for sure that Sam could take care of himself, even against a gorilla."

You could say that Joe Woodman was the Don King of his time. Under his shrewd guidance, Langford and Tate fought each other a total of seven times between the years 1917 and 1922, mostly before capacity crowds. Tate was awarded a 12-round decision in their first bout, in Kansas City, May 1, 1917. But after that, it was downhill for Big Bill. Sam scored two knockouts and easily won two decisions, and although the remaining two fights are listed as no-decisions, Langford was clearly ahead both times.

Getting back to our historic picture taken at the converted gymnasium-restaurant in East St. Louis, the caption offered the following stats: Sam Langford, 5'6 1/2", 163 pounds; Bill Tate, 6'6", 256 pounds.

Eat your heart out, Don King.

KETCHEL SCORES A BIG FIRST



(November 26, 1908)

After pole-axing Billy Papke with a gut-busting left hook to the belly, followed instantly by a devastating right to the point of the jaw, Stanley Ketchel watched anxiously as Papke's head bounces off the musty, canvas-covered floor. For the immortal "Michigan Assassin," it was the sweet taste of revenge as well as an historic first for boxing.

It had been just 11 weeks before, on September 7, at Vernon, California, which is just up the road a piece from the present battle site of Colma, that Papke accomplished something that had never been done before: knock out the great Ketchel, and at the same time knock the world middleweight crown off his head.

To say that Stanley Ketchel was emotionally unstable would be like calling Muhammad Ali an extrovert. Recalled Ketchel's manager, glib Wilson Mizner, "Steve [as Ketchel was called by his pals] didn't eat or even take a glass of water for at least three days after Papke knocked him out. And I'm sure he didn't sleep, either. Steve never acted normal—like average people. You could never be sure what he would do next."

Mizner went on to explain how Ketchel kept demanding a rematch: "At times he lost control. His eyes bulged with anger and he went nose to nose with me as his voice split into screams. I admit I got scared a few times."

Mizner managed to arrange the return match so quickly because, with Ketchel's blessing, he agreed to a meager 25 percent of the purse, including training expenses. Said Mizner, "I'm sure Steve would have fought for free."

It was the day before Thanksgiving, and the vast crowd packing the makeshift arena in Colma was rewarded with the brutal spectacle they had paid to see. Would Stanley Ketchel do what no other fighter had ever done: regain a world championship? They got the answer midway into the 11th round, when brave Billy Papke collapsed under the bone-shattering blows of probably the hardest puncher of all-time.

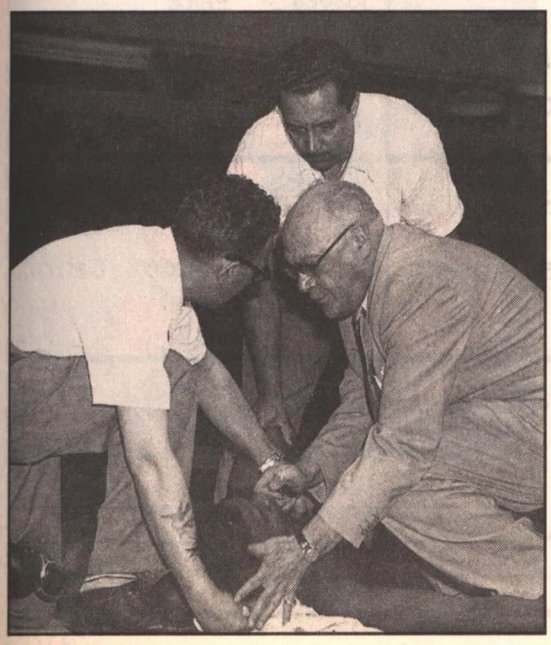
DON'T EAT AND FIGHT

(June 23, 1952)

Luis Escuter felt hungry while he was heading for Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway Arena, where he was scheduled to fight Johnny Lissy in a preliminary bout on a card headlined by Joey Giardello vs. Pierre Langlois. So, against the advice of his trainer, Escuter slipped into a luncheonette just around the corner from the arena and wolfed down an egg sandwich on a roll, washing it down with an ice-cold Coke.

Within minutes, Luis was sitting on the small, dingy dressing room, watching his hands being taped. About 20 minutes later, he was in the center of the ring, exchanging eyeball-to-eyeball glares with Lissy while listening to the referee's instructions.

Escuter knew something was wrong when he took his first shot, a left hook that exploded just under his heart. "Maybe I shouldn't have ate that egg on a roll," he said to himself. And when the next body shot slammed into his gut, Luis thought that maybe that ice-cold Coke had also been a mistake. Escuter gamely went through the motions until midway through round four, when an assault to his head and body sent him crashing to the floor, where he was counted out.

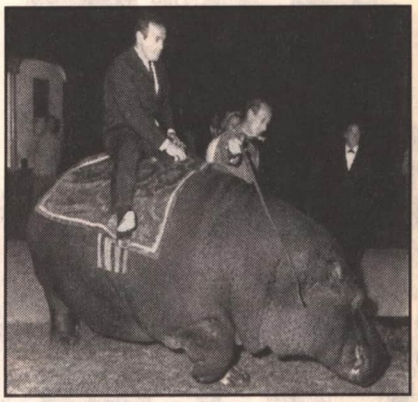


Dr. William Walker (right) rushed to Luis' aid and quickly went through the prescribed procedure: aiming a tiny light beam into the stricken fighter's eyes, looking down his throat, checking his heartbeat. It wasn't until the doctor's educated fingers scanned Escuter's heaving stomach that, to his astonishment, the truth came out.

Explained Dr. Walker after he ordered Luis removed to the nearest hospital, "The kid wasn't stopped by punches alone. His appetite had a lot to do with it."

A PAIR OF HEAVYWEIGHTS

(September 20, 1963)



Ingemar Johansson was well-known for his potent right hand and dedication to the good life, especially food. Long after he retired from the ring, a picture of him was flashed across the world showing Ingo sitting naked in what appeared to be a steamroom, rolls of flesh covering his once-beautifully molded body, and his weight estimated at more than 260 pounds.

This picture shows the former heavyweight champion riding a hippopotamus at the Swiss National Circus in Geneva. Although Ingo appears to have been eating abundantly, he is no match for his robust mount.

It had been three years since Johansson had lost the heavyweight crown to Floyd Patterson, and two years since he had again lost to Patterson in the third bout of their classic series. But those defeats did not end Ingo's career. He racked up three knockouts in 1962, and in April 1963 he decisioned Britain's Brian London. Although he had many lucrative offers after that, some of which he seriously considered, Sweden's pride and joy, financially secure for life, decided to close out his career on the winning side of the ledger. And thank goodness he stopped riding hippos. ■

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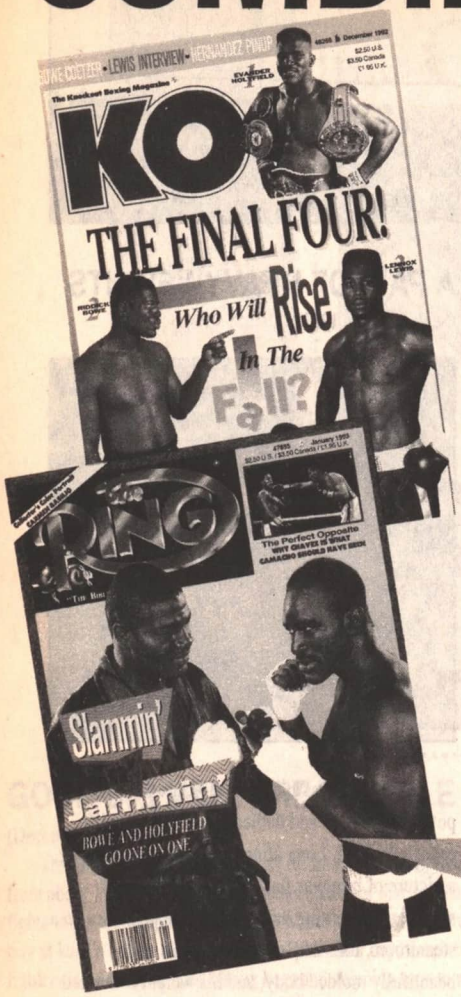

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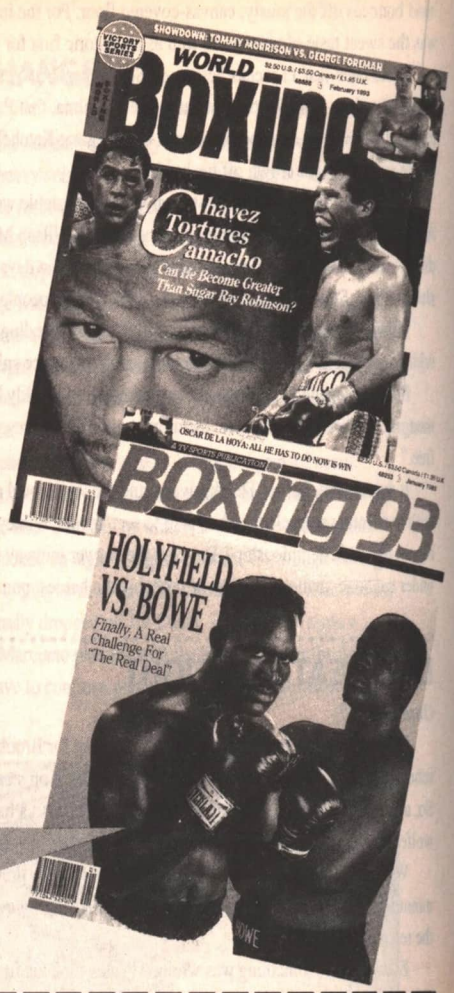

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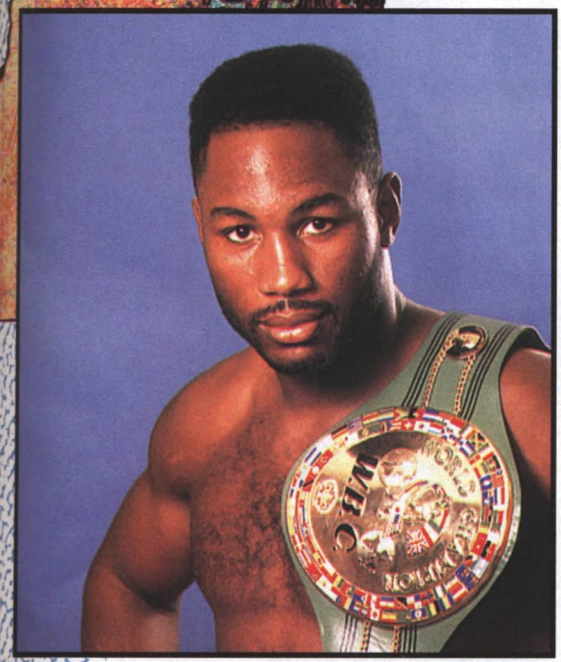
Lennox Lewis' First Title Defense

BEATING TONY TUCKER WAS THE EASY PART



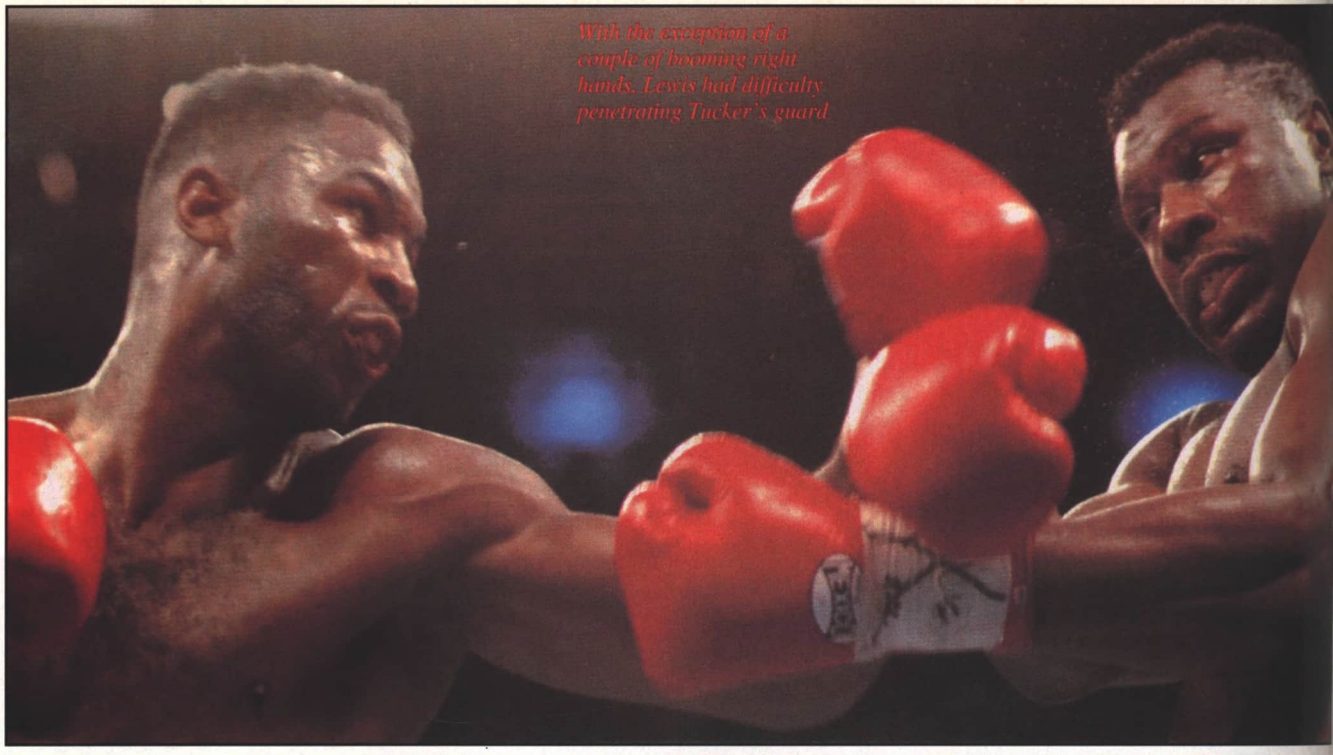
Lewis hurt Tucker, and twice felled him, but couldn't finish the stubborn veteran.

By Steve Farhood

Composed, imperturbable, ever the British gentleman, Lennox Lewis isn't the type of fighter who easily becomes unhinged. No matter the moment, Lewis seems unconcerned. A fight for the title is a walk in Hyde Park. A good thing, too, because in May, the WBC heavyweight champion found himself a target. The shots came from all angles, and in order to last the distance, Lewis was forced to duck, dodge, slide left, then right. Never before had he needed to summon his defensive skills with such urgency.

When the blitz was over, a lesser man would have been picking up his own pieces. But the knot in Lewis' tie was still neat, and the tips of his shoes were still shiny. He had wisely protected himself at all times, even after the fight.

Especially after the fight.



With the exception of a couple of booming right hands, Lewis had difficulty penetrating Tucker's guard

The press had opened all its guns, and Lewis learned in Las Vegas that in comparison to a full-blown media attack, heavyweight contenders shoot blanks. Top-rated contender Tony Tucker had turned out to be rather impotent—Lewis won a unanimous decision by four, six, and seven points. As for the poison pens, suffice to say that some of the same writers who had canonized Lewis following his Halloween knockout of Razor Ruddock were, after the Tucker fight, firing cannons.

"It's time to put the WBC heavyweight title belt back where it belongs—in a garbage can," wrote *Newsday's* Wallace Matthews. "The WBC's heavyweight champion, as nice as he may be and as much undeveloped talent as he may have, has no more right to hold that title than a kid straight out of the Golden Gloves. Off his performance against Tony Tucker Saturday night at the Thomas & Mack Center, Lennox Lewis is what Pete

A KING-SIZED COMEBACK

Former two-division world champion Meldrick Taylor began his second career on the Lewis-Tucker undercard, scoring an insignificant two-round victory over clubfighter Henry Hughes, 13-9-1. The bout, Taylor's first under Don King's promotional banner, wasn't televised, and it was fought before most of the crowd had arrived. Taylor appeared in excellent shape, and still seemed popular with the fans despite wearing a metallic, art deco loin cloth that even Hector Camacho and Jorge Paez would have rejected.

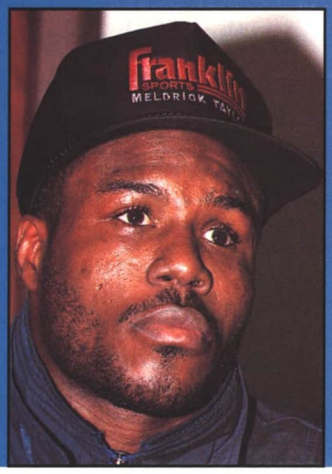
"I'm happy to get even two practice rounds in," Taylor said. "I feel very good, very strong, like my old self."

Taylor offered no excuses or blame for his recent downfall, and he isn't looking back. His motivation was clear at the weigh-in; when Julio Cesar Chavez hit the scales before an adoring throng, Taylor stood on the sidelines, a fighter who clearly missed the cheers.

"If he continues to win," said King, "he'll get Chavez again."

Asked about his split with Main Events, Taylor said, "I decided to leave right after the [Crisanto] Espana fight, when the Duvas stated falsehoods. They knew there was nothing wrong with me, they just didn't want me to sign with anybody else. They made a lot of money off me, but I have no bitterness and I really don't think about it."

When asked about the Taylor situation, manager Lou Duva, who said after the Espana bout that his former star should no longer be licensed to fight, copped a rare "no comment." Promoter Dan Duva only shook his head and frowned.

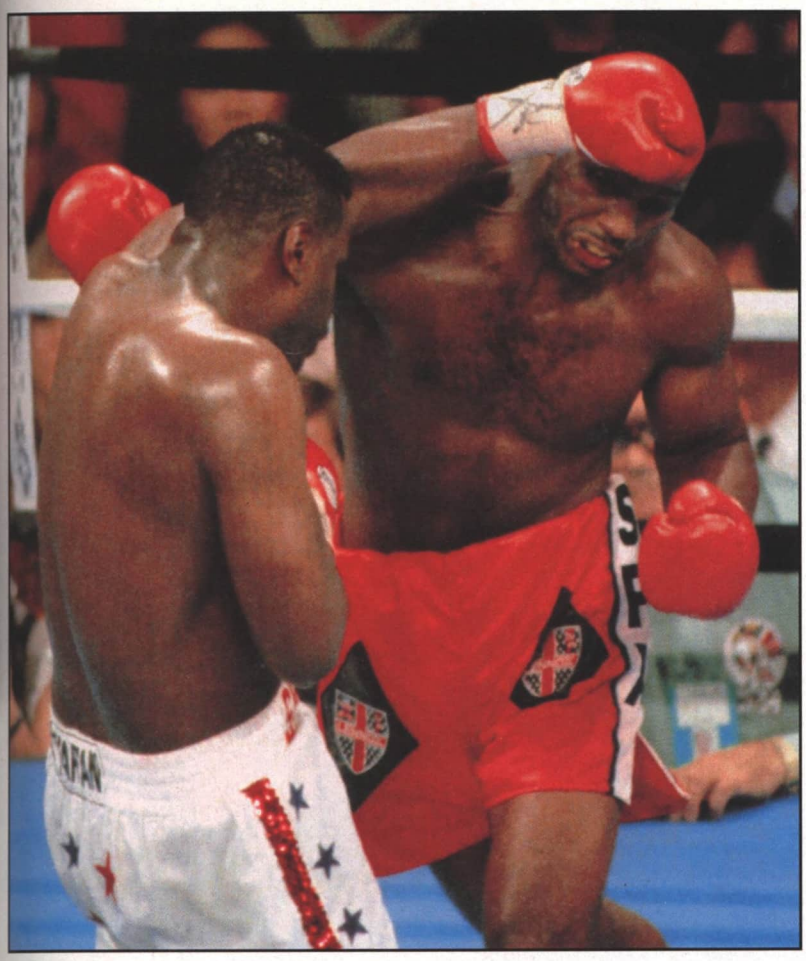


Taylor's new promoter was far less subdued. "The Duvas threw him away into the rubbish pile," said King. "It was ungodly. If a man fought for me like that, I'd never let people talk about him being finished like they did. He served them loyally and they broke his heart. Meldrick came to me and asked for help. I said he'd have to take a full medical exam. The Cleveland Clinic checked him from head to toe and said he was fit to fight, so I signed him up."

Taylor hopes to fight monthly. He says he's aiming for Maurice Blocker's IBF welterweight crown, but the fight he really wants is a rematch with Chavez.

"I'll fight 10 times or 50 times if I have to," he said. "I'll wait for as long as it takes."

—Phil Woolever



Lewis admitted his performance wasn't his best, but it was good enough to win.

Rademacher would have been if Floyd Patterson hadn't gotten up off the canvas—an amateur impersonating the heavyweight champion of the world."

Wrote George Kimball in the *New York Post*: "The reputation of the WBC heavyweight champ took something of a beating in his first defense. The Briton appeared vulnerable, inexperienced, and, by turns, amateurish and poorly conditioned.

"In a more logically governed world, Lewis' financial stock might have taken a severe tumble off his unimpressive performance against Tucker. As it was, he looked just bad enough that a day later new challengers were materializing, and promoters from all around the globe were weighing in with sacks full of money in an effort to be the next to lure Lewis back into the ring."

Jeffrey Dahmer, David Koresh, Lennox Lewis. Is there really any difference?

***

In recent years, winning ugly has been celebrated, at least in team sports. But in boxing, *how* you win has always been as important as *if* you win. And your last fight is the only one that matters.

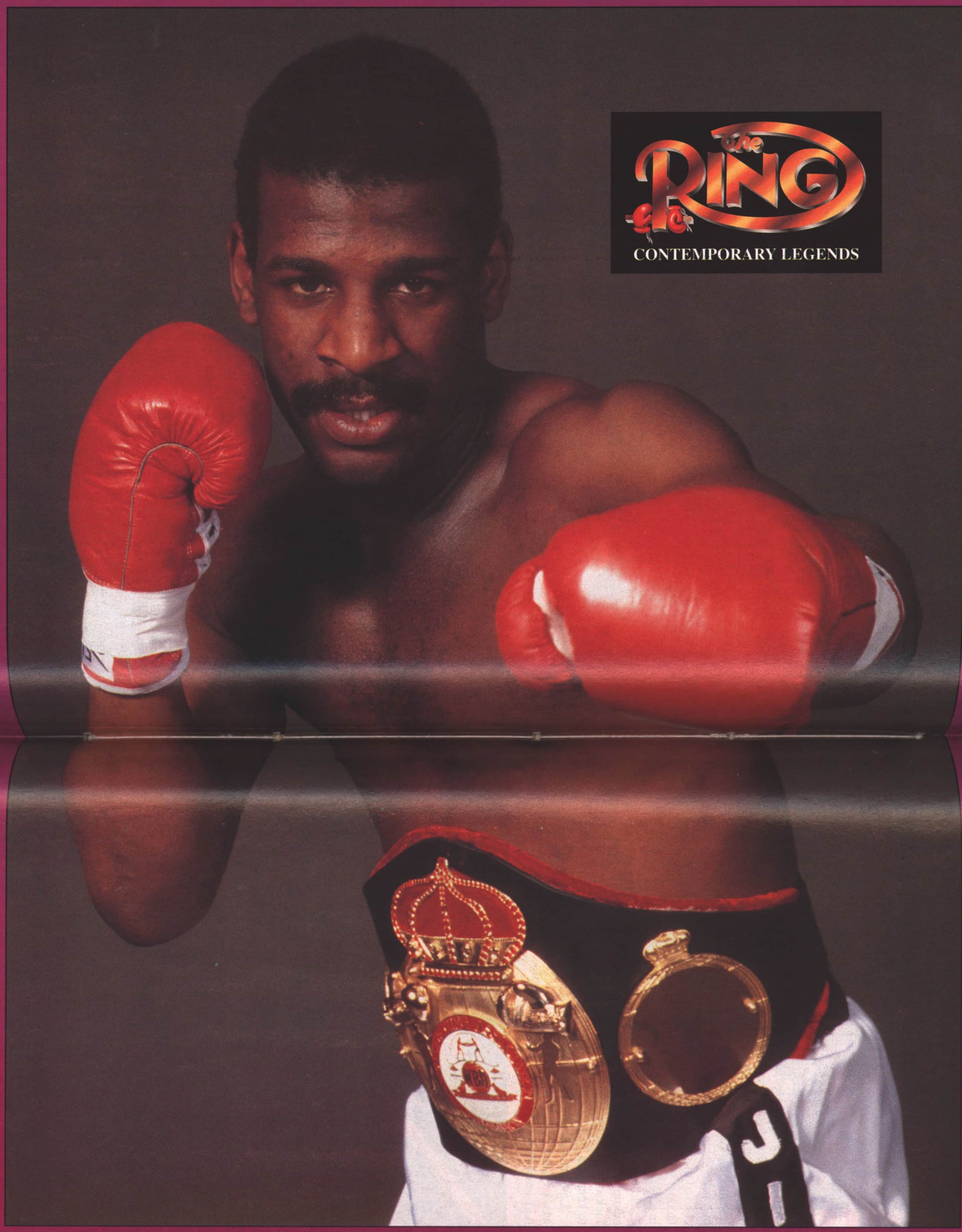
Was Lewis' first title defense really *that* ugly? "I'd rate it a seven out of 10," said Lewis. "I didn't put enough punches together."

The media judged Lewis to be flattering himself. What bothered the scribes was not that Lewis had won unimpressively, but that he won unimpressively in defense of a title he hadn't won in the ring. The expectations are always greater when the words "world heavyweight champion" precede your name. After Lewis won every round but failed to finish Levi Billups (in February 1992), he was slapped on the wrist. But after he was extended by Tucker, who is a far better fighter than Billups, the press picked up their 2x4s and adjusted their brass knuckles.

In a sense, Lewis was a victim of his own competence. It was both unfair and unrealistic to expect him to match his performance vs. Ruddock. In fact, Lewis will probably never look that devastating again. Still, when a young heavyweight illuminates the ring, there's always hope that he'll shine forever. Physically, at least, champion and challenger were mirror images, with Lewis holding a quarter-inch edge in reach (82 1/4" to 82"), Tucker a half-inch in height (6'5" to 6'4 1/2"), and both

(Continued on page 50)

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime



MICHAEL SPINKS

St. Louis, Missouri

Light Heavyweight Champion: 1981-1985
Heavyweight Champion: 1985-1987

WINNING THE TITLE WITH A BANG

GERALD McCLELLAN: THE HARDEST HITTER IN BOXING

By Nigel Collins

The screech of tires, the snarl of a pit bull, the thud of an opponent hitting the canvas are all music for Gerald McClellan. But according to boxing's latest self-styled tough guy, the sweetest sound of all was the mellifluous voice of ring announcer Jimmy Lennon Jr., proclaiming that McClellan was "the *new* WBC middleweight champion of the world."

"It was great, like a burst of energy and joy running through my body," said the 25-year-old McClellan, describing the rush of emotion he experienced following his explosive fifth-round knockout of Julian Jackson. "Then, when I woke up the next morning and saw the belt sitting on my dresser, I said to myself, `Hey, you really are the champ.'"

In a way, McClellan, 28-2 (26), won two titles at the Thomas & Mack Center on May 8 in Las Vegas: one a symbol of the WBC's recognition, the other bestowed by popular acclaim. In a story published in last month's issue of *The Ring*, Jackson, 46-2 (43), was selected as the hardest hitter, pound for pound, in boxing. The manner in which McClellan shrugged off Jackson's best shots and rendered the Virgin Islander senseless makes him the logical choice to inherit the mythical title.

The TV promos had promised "bombs away," and McClellan and Jackson delivered as advertised, unloading enough TNT to finish leveling Sarajevo. After armistice had been declared and the ring cleared of rubble, even the usually laconic winner conceded he'd been in a helluva fight.

"I have a tremendous headache," acknowledged McClellan. "But Jackson would have had to kill me to keep that belt."

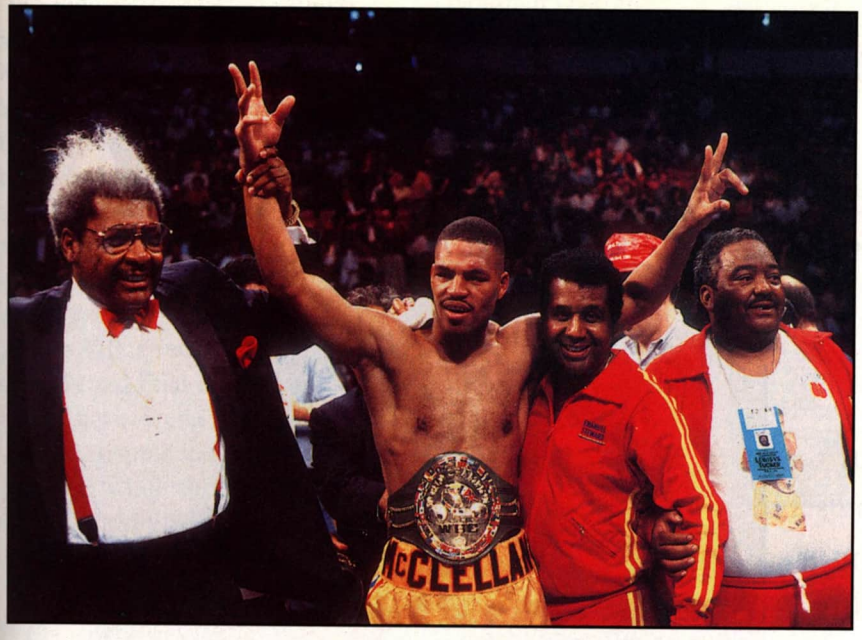
Late arrivals at the Thomas & Mack Center, which was sinfully half-empty when Jackson and McClellan ducked between the ropes, missed a mesmerizing shootout. In terms of raw punching power and kamikaze intensity, it was the most riveting middleweight war since Marvin Hagler and Thomas Hearns electrified the boxing world with their breathtaking 1985 classic.

* * *

A couple of days later, McClellan was back home in Freeport, Illinois, renewing

Puncher vs. puncher: McClellan downs Jackson in a classic middleweight slugfest.

Photos by Tom Casino/Showtime



McClellan celebrates with promoter Don King and manager Emanuel Steward.

acquaintances with his seven pit bulls and shopping for a new Suzuki GSX he intends to buy with part of his purse. Outside of boxing, ferocious dogs and fast-moving motor vehicles are McClellan's primary passions. He already owns a Mustang GT capable of 150 mph and figures a high-performance motorcycle would be the perfect addition to his garage.

"There's a clause in my contract that says I'm not supposed to be racing cars and stuff like that, but I don't pay no attention to it," he said. "Life is a gamble. You only live once, so you may as well enjoy yourself."

What does manager-trainer Emanuel Steward think about all this extracurricular risk-taking?

"I don't think he knows about it," confessed McClellan.

Those who know McClellan hope the combination of the WBC belt and newly won recognition as boxing's foremost knockout artist will also serve to mellow the intense individual who calls himself the "G-Man." From all accounts, McClellan has worked almost as hard cultivating a tough guy image as he has honing his punching prowess.

"Gerald McClellan is an intriguing personality," said Kronk teammate Leeonzer Barber. "One day, I'll say, `Hi,' and he'll say, `What's up?' The next day, maybe the next *hour*, I'll say, `What's happening?' and he'll snap out and start cursing. He used to be a fun guy, a prankster and joker, but not any more. One day he called everybody in the gym a whore and a chump. I asked him why he was acting so ignorant, and if he included me in his statement. He said, `You know you're a whore.' And I thought, *Well, so that's how it is*. We don't even box in the gym anymore because we don't spar, we fight."

Matchmaker Tom Vacca has made numerous bouts for

(Continued on page 54)

A HAGLER-HEARNS FOR THE '90s

Clint Eastwood vs. Charles Bronson. Chuck Norris vs. Bruce Lee. John Wayne vs. Popeye. A trio of fantasy matches we'll never see. But for mayhem lovers, McClellan vs. Jackson was a dream come true.

Like gunslingers at the OK Corral, they came out firing from the hip. The challenger launched the first missile, buckling Jackson's knees with a whistling right early in the first. Jackson's rump came dangerously close to brushing the canvas, but he swayed away from McClellan's followup assault.

Jackson battled back to have a strong second round. He established his jab and then rattled McClellan, who seemed suddenly unsure of himself, with booming rights. It looked, at least momentarily, as if the champion had survived the worst and was ready to take control.

An accidental clash of heads ripped open a cut on the bridge of Jackson's nose in the third. Referee Mills Lane deducted a point from McClellan, but everyone knew the fight had about as much of a chance of going to the scorecards as Wimpy Halstead has of winning the heavyweight title.

Though obviously bothered by the blood dripping down his face, Jackson pressed forward in the fourth. He forced the backpedaling McClellan onto the ropes and hooked to the body. The tempo slowed slightly, but the edge-of-your-seat tension seldom flagged.

Two crushing left hooks thudded into McClellan's protective cup in the fifth, the second of which sent him to his knees, grimacing in pain. Lane allowed the stricken fighter time to recover, but the vigor with which McClellan attacked upon regaining his feet was startling.

Seemingly none the worse for his ordeal, McClellan tore into Jackson and unleashed a screaming right that flashed between the champion's gloves and landed flush on his jaw. Jackson staggered backward, his legs going east, his body lurching west. McClellan leaped after him and connected with a sweeping left hook to the point of the chin. The punch send Jackson down on his back, and he skidded part-way under the bottom rope before coming to rest, head and shoulders protruding onto the apron.

Somehow, Jackson bravely dragged himself erect inside Lane's count. McClellan, a deadly finisher, rushed in and drove two more hard rights into Jackson's face. The already woozy champion crumpled to his knees, upper body bent forward, head buried in his forearms. Again, Jackson made a superhuman effort and stumbled up. But when he tottered sideways along the ropes, Lane had no alternative but to stop the fight at the 2:09 mark.

—NC

THE FORGOTTEN DEATH OF TONY MARINO

The Tragedy That Saved Lives

By Vernon Gravely

Tony Marino was heavily outclassed by Carlos "Indian" Quintana, being dropped no fewer than five times. Taking a beating, however, was nothing new to the former bantamweight champion; it was just part of the job. So it wasn't any wonder that the Pittsburgh pugilist finished the featured eight-rounder at the Ridgewood Grove (in Queens, New York) on his feet. But as Quintana's arm was raised in victory, the 25-year-old Marino collapsed and had to be assisted to his dressing room.

Tony Marino began his professional boxing career in 1931, winning a six-rounder against Young Ketchel. The good-looking Italian would compile a far-from-threatening record: 26-12-2 (7). Though not a powerful puncher, he was able to gain a reputation as a bit of a spoiler.

In June 1936, Marino vaulted into the limelight in a crossroads bout with top-notch contender Lou Salica. Concentrating his assault on the body, Marino handily took four of the first five rounds. Salica won the sixth, forcing Marino to the ropes. Tony quickly bounced back, stealing the remaining rounds with magnificent head and body work. He had Salica severely rocked in the 10th and final round, and the Queensboro Arena's 2,000 fans couldn't dispute the unanimous decision, which earned Marino a shot at world titleholder Baltasar Sangchili.

Twenty-four days later, Marino found himself at New York's Dyckman Oval in front of 5,000 enthusiastic spectators. For 13 rounds, Sangchili mercilessly battered the Pennsylvanian. But this was the moment Tony had spent five years working for, and he wasn't going to let it slip by.

It happened suddenly in the 14th: Marino managed to connect with a devastating left-right combination that floored Sangchili for the full count. Later, the Spaniard's handlers claimed their fighter had suffered a leg cramp, and Marino happened to knock him off-balance. Whatever excuses they could muster were moot. The world had a new bantamweight champion.

Quintana Bout Proves Fatal to Marino

Continued from First Page.

the same row where he started his climb to fame and a chance at Abie Bezdorn's title.

It was only a few months ago that Tony came out of the Pennsylvania hills with a stout heart and a pair of worn fighting gloves.

Wearily he shuffled from one promoter to another seeking a chance to show his wares.

Finally, and only because of Tony's tenacity of purpose, he was put in against a few preliminary boys, in the Ridgewood Grove Club.

Then began Tony's rise to fistic heights. After a series of sensational knockouts, Tony was put in against Lou Salica, former bantamweight title holder.

He won that fight and got $75 for his end.

THE ALMIGHTY MITE.

They began calling him the Pittsburgh Pygmy and the Mighty Mite as do all good press agents when they build up a fighter.

Riches began to flow in a golden stream for Tony after that. But it didn't spoil him. Tony wasn't the kind of a fellow to win a fight and then do the night clubs. He lived cleanly and put his money in the bank.

It was last September that Tony got his shot at Escobar in Dyckman Oval.

Of that fight Nipie Ross wrote: "Marino's exhibition of gameness beggars description. He was on the floor seven times in the second round, five of them being clean knockdowns. He was roughed to all fours in one minute. Getting up after the first knockdown, little Marino staggered backwards and fell on the

AL REICH, REFEREE OF FATAL BROOKLYN BOUT

Boxing suffered another black mark with the death today of game little Tony Marino, Pittsburgh bantamweight, after his bout with Indian Quintana at the Ridgewood Grove Sporting Club last Saturday night. Marino went down repeatedly during the eight-round bout while the crowd pleaded with Referee Reich to halt the bout.

The Marino tragedy made headlines. Two days later, the three-knockdown rule was introduced.

Indian Quintana, a contender seeking another try at the title, punished Marino in their fateful bout.

At the time of Marino's reign, Sixto Escobar held the New York version of the title, which he had won from Salica the previous summer. A meeting was inevitable. The claimants squared off in a unification bout in August, again at Dyckman Oval.

Marino, a 2-1 underdog, endured a horrendous thrashing at the hands of the Puerto Rican battler. He tasted the canvas five times—all in the second round! Each time he got up and fought on, and in the sixth he brought his small legion of supporters to their feet by landing a series of solid left hooks.

Having scored two upsets in a row, Marino's prospects for a third triumph weren't altogether inconceivable. But his rally was short-lived. Despite applying continual pressure, he received much more than he returned, and by the end of the 11th (the only other round he won), his eyes were badly cut and swollen. After the 13th, the ringside doctor entered the ring and ordered referee Billy Cavanagh to halt the proceedings.

Defeated but undaunted, Marino fought five more times in 1936, winning four and losing a 10-round rematch with Sangchili. Then, on January 30, 1937, in an additional step to reascend the bantamweight ladder, the sixth-ranked Marino climbed through the ropes to face Quintana, another hopeful who had lost to Escobar by a crushing first-round kayo the previous November.

It would be Marino's last moment inside the ring. He provided a typically valiant effort for the 2,500 fans who turned out, but shortly after losing the decision he was rushed to Wyckoff Heights Hospital in Brooklyn. He never regained consciousness,

(Continued on page 56)

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Lennox Lewis W 12 Tony Tucker
(Retains WBC Title)
Michael Moorer KO 3 Frankie Swindell
Alex Garcia KO 12 Eric Curry
Tony Tubbs W 10 Melton Bowen
Larry Holmes KO 7 Ken Lakusta
Oliver McCall KO 8 Francesco Damiani
Frank Bruno KO 10 Carl Williams
Alex Stewart KO 3 Ric Enis
Lionel Butler KO 4 Jesse Shelby
Lou Savarese W 10 Nathaniel Fitch
Art Tucker W 10 Mark Young
Roger McKenzie KO 8 Warren Richards
Dariusz Michalczewski KO 4 Pat Alley
Tex Cobb KO 6 Mike Acklie
Jeremy Williams KO 2 Danell Nicholson
Danell Nicholson KO 3 Tim Morrison

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Orlin Norris W 10 Richard Mason
Nate Miller KO 3 Kenneth Jackson
Robert Daniels KO 5 Lopez McGee
Marcelo Figueroa KO 4 Cecil Sims
Dennis Andries KO 6 Willie Jake
Carl Thompson KO 1 Steve Harvey
Kenny Keene KO 2 David Robinson
Mark Randazzo KO 3 Jeff McCall
Karl Willis KO 10 Lopez McGee
Ralf Rocchigiani W 8 David Bates
Mickey Goodwin W 4 Jose Macias

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Ernesto Magdaleno KO 10 Tim Hillie
Randall Yonker KO 2 Charles Scott
Sean Mannion W 10 Terence Walker
Brent Kosolofski KO 9 Michael Gale
Dominick Carter W 10 Robert Johnson
Montell Griffin W 6 Donny Penelton

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Michael Nunn KO 6 Crawford Ashley
(Retains WBA Title)
James Toney KO 10 Ricky Thomas
(Non-Title Bout)
Nicky Piper KO 9 Chris Sande
Lupe Aquino KO 4 Joey DeGrandis
Darin Allen W 10 Armando Rodriguez
Dan Schommer W 10 Nicky Walker
John Jarvis W 10 Tim Knight

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Gerald McClellan KO 5 Julian Jackson
(Wins WBC Title)
Reggie Johnson W 12 Wayne Harris
(Retains WBA Title)
Joe Gatti W 10 Nate Woods
Jorge Castro KO 2 Abdenago Jofre
Jorge Castro W 10 Lorenzo Garcia
Willie Monroe KO 6 Graylin Curry
Charles Brewer KO 6 Carl Sullivan
Stephen Martinez W 8 Tim Dendy
Quincy Taylor KO 2 James Rivas
Robbie Sims KO 3 Bill Bradley
Chuck Glover KO 2 Kevin Johnson

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Julio Cesar Vasquez W 12 Francisco Castillejo
(Retains WBA Title)
Simon Brown W 10 Carlton Haywood
Laurent Boudouani KO 9 Romolo Casamonica
Curtis Summit KO 6 Aaron Smith
Valentino Manca KO 7 Michele Mastrodonato
Kirkland Laing W 8 Newton Barnett
Lonnie Beasley W 12 Lamark Davis

WELTERWEIGHTS

Crisanto Espana W 12 Rodolfo Aguilar
(Retains WBA Title)
Oba Carr KO 5 Miguel Dominguez
Hector Camacho KO 5 Eric Podolak
Meldrick Taylor KO 2 Henry Hughes
Buck Smith W 4 Gary Brown
Brandon Croly W 10 Buck Smith
Alex Tui KO 3 Spike Cheney
Wilfredo Rivera KO 5 Ariel Chavez
Freddie Ladd KO 3 Baldo Herrera
Freddie Ladd KO 2 Anthony Montana
Gary Murray KO 1 Hugo Mulenga
Jeff Malcolm KO 3 Tevita Vakalalabure
Pat Coleman W 8 Saoul Mamby

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Juan Coggi KO 7 Jose Rivera
(Retains WBA Title)
Julio Cesar Chavez KO 6 Terrence Alli
(Retains WBC Title)
Julio Cesar Chavez KO 3 Silvio Rojas
(Non-Title Bout)
Joey Gamache KO 2 Rocky Berg
Zack Padilla W 10 Roger Mayweather
Juan LaPorte KO 5 William Ruiz
Todd Foster KO 6 Bryan Brown
Vinny Letizia KO 2 Mark Hammond
Rocky Balboa KO 3 Mario Fuentes
Jake Rodriguez W Disq. 6 Charlie Brown
Manuel Billalba W 10 Miguel Arevalo
Kenny Bogner KO 4 Edward Ruiz
Pepe Reilly KO 1 Jimmy Fimbers

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Miguel Angel Gonzalez W 12 Hector Lopez
(Retains WBC Title)
Leavander Johnson KO 2 Rafael Meyran
Giovanni Parisi W 12 Michael Ayers
Jose Vidal W 10 Renaldo Carter
Arturo Gatti KO 3 Curtis Mathis
Orlando Marimon KO 2 Jose Cardozo

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Genaro Hernandez Tech. Draw 1 Raul Perez
(Retains WBA Title)
Oscar De La Hoya KO 4 Frankie Avelar
Victor Hugo Paz KO 6 Candelario Macayo
Darryl Pinckney W 10 Luis Rolon
Tony Pep W 10 Joe Phillips
Joseph Murray W 12 Jacobin Yoma
Moises Pedroza KO 2 Eduardo Contreras

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Goyo Vargas KO 7 Paul Hodkinson
(Wins WBC Title)
Francisco Segura W 12 Tony Green
Steve Robinson W 12 John Davison
Jose Vida Ramos W 10 Tommy Barnes
Michael Parris W 10 Glen Forde

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS

Kennedy McKinney W 12 Richard Duran
(Retains IBF Title)
Julio Gervacio KO 1 Martin Cardenas
Javier Leon KO 6 Chucherd Eausampan
Pedro Decima Tech. Draw 3 Sergio Martinez
Yuichi Kasai D 10 Abraham Torres
Sergio Liendo KO 11 Raul Loblein

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Eliecer Julio KO 8 Francisco Alvarez
(Retains WBA Title)
Ricardo Vargas W 12 Concepcion Velazquez
Tim Austin KO 1 Hector Lopez

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Marco Antonio Barerra KO 4 Facundo Rodriguez

FLYWEIGHTS

Robbie Regan KO 3 Danny Porter
Eric Griffin W 10 Armando Diaz
Abdi Pohan KO 11 Compayak
Charoenkarnchang
Jacob Matlala W 8 Toto Hleli
Danny Nunez Tech. Win 9 Julio Acevedo-Lopez

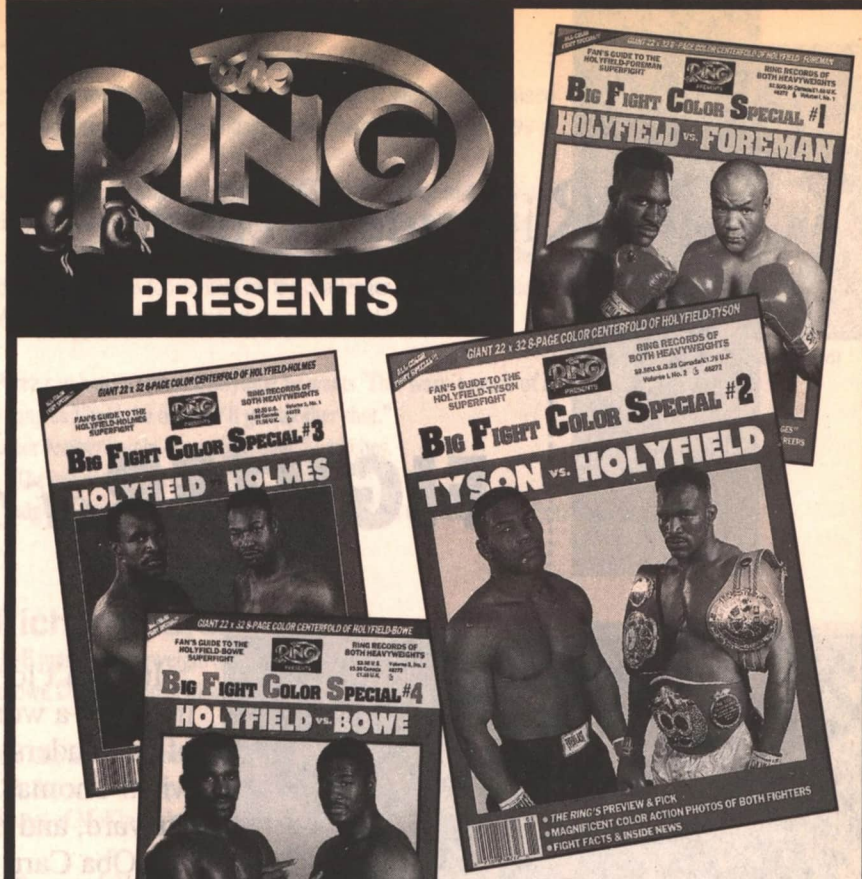
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Jesus Chong KO 10 Raul Rios
Pretty Boy Lucas W 12 Javier Varguez

STRAWWEIGHTS

Kermin Guardia W 10 Jose Marcelino Boli

The RING PRESENTS



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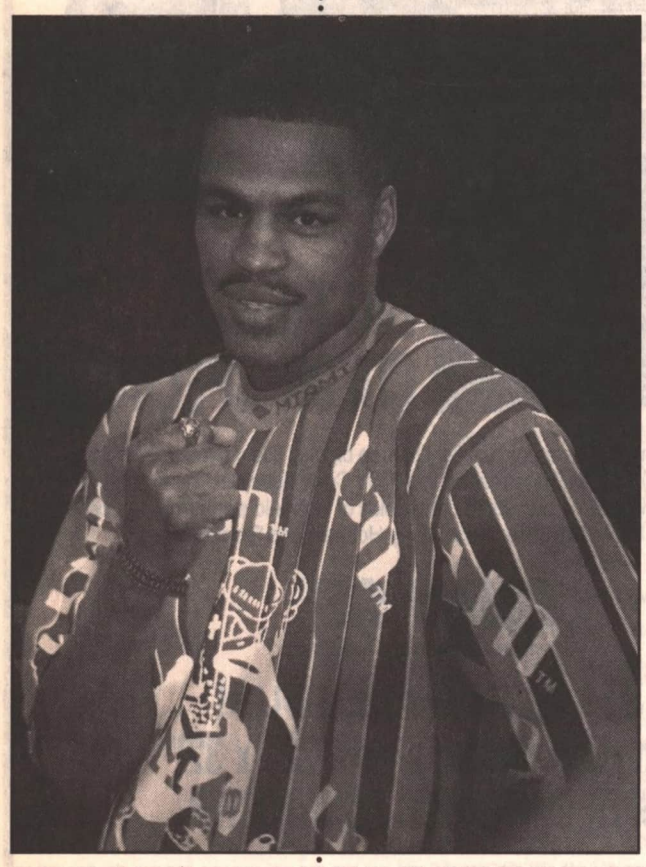
FIGHTER *of the* MONTH



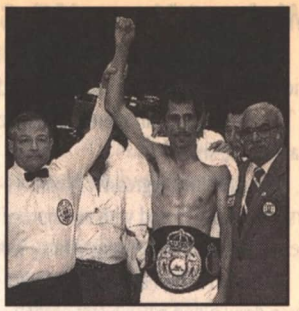
It wasn't long ago that the Kronk stable included a world champion or two, a scattering of contenders, and a gymful of prospects. But when Thomas Hearns split with Emanuel Steward, and his successors, Michael Moorer and Oba Carr, did the same, the team colors changed from red and gold to black and blue.

Maybe, just maybe, newly crowned WBC middleweight champion Gerald McClellan will reverse the trend. Years ago, Steward boasted that McClellan was Kronk's best fighter. In May, the powerpunching 160-pounder began to live up to his reputation by knocking out one of the most established champions in boxing, Julian Jackson (see page 40). The Kronk roster isn't as deep as it used to be. But for the first time in months, if not years, there's reason to cheer.

• • • •

GERALD McCLELLAN

Genaro Hernandez Tech. Draw 1 Raul Perez



Hernandez didn't break a sweat

Inglewood, California—In the shortest bout in junior lightweight title fight history, "Chicanito" Hernandez retained the WBA crown with a technical draw against former two-division champion "Jibaro" Perez before a crowd of 5,699 at the Great Western Forum.

In the opening seconds of the initial round, Hernandez, 130, Los Angeles, slipped a jab and attempted to deliver a left uppercut. The fighters clashed heads, and the accidental butt produced a severe cut high on the forehead of Perez, 129 3/4, Tijuana, Mexico, causing blood to flow into his left eye. Referee Lou Moret (USA) immediately stopped the action and summoned Dr. Robert Karns, who decided that the cut was too serious for the challenger to continue. The time of the stoppage: 28 seconds. (According to WBA rules, a fight stopped before the sixth round because of an accidental butt is ruled a technical draw.)

Said Hernandez, who made his fourth defense, "Perez can have a rematch anytime he wants. This wasn't much of a fight. What happened tonight was an accident, and as long as I hold the title, he'll get another shot."

Perez, formerly WBC bantamweight and WBA junior featherweight champion, took 22 stitches.

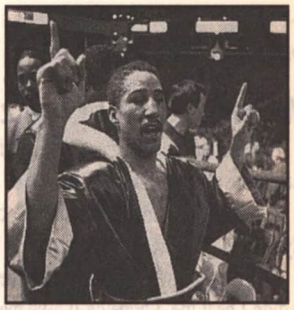
"I think the fight was correctly stopped," he said. "The cut was very bad."

Hernandez is 27-0-1 (13), Perez 50-3-3 (32). The judges: Jesus Celis (Venezuela), Orlando Sam (Panama), and Fritz Werner (USA).

(4-26-93)

Robert G. Rodriguez

Kennedy McKinney W 12 Richard Duran



McKinney won on the road

Sacramento, California—McKinney retained the IBF junior featherweight title in his first defense, but not without a strong effort from the previously unbeaten but little-known Duran before a disappointingly small crowd of 2,988 at Arco Arena.

McKinney, 122, Memphis, Tennessee, who won the title last December with a come-from-behind knockout of Welcome Ncita, had trouble getting started. Duran, 122, Sacramento, surprised the champion in the first by beating him to the punch with a good right to the chin. He slipped most of McKinney's jabs, punched to the body, and took the first two rounds on all three cards.

After Duran suffered a cut on his left eyelid late in the second, McKinney started scoring with his left. He used the cut as a target and kept Duran from rushing in. Despite missing many of his blows, McKinney took the third and fourth.

Duran, 26-1 (13), ignored renewed bleeding from his cut and took the fifth by backing up McKinney, 23-0-1 (14), and landing the heavier blows. The champion rebounded to win the next three rounds with his jab, as Duran did little. Duran roared back in the ninth, hurting McKinney with a right to the head and then shaking him with two more rights. But he could never cut off the ring or corner the champion and attempt to land a finishing blow. After an even 10th that saw both fighters tiring, McKinney outboxed Duran, fending off the game challenger's attempts to land a fight-ending bomb.

The decision was unanimous, with Dave Nelson scoring 117-111, and Keith MacDonald and Paul Gibbs 116-112. All three judges are from the USA. The referee was Pat Russell (USA).

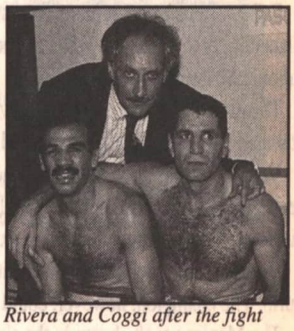
McKinney has a July 17 date in Memphis, possibly against former WBA champion Jesus Salud.

Promoters: Don Chargin, Cedric Kushner

(4-17-93)

Steven R. Nicolaisen

Juan Coggi KO 7 Jose Rivera



Rivera and Coggi after the fight

Mar Del Plata, Argentina—WBA junior welterweight champion Coggi made the first defense of his second reign, stopping the veteran Rivera before a crowd of about 2,000 at Super Domo Stadium.

Coggi, 140, Sante Fe, Argentina, defended at the same site of his title-winning knockout of Morris East in January. He allowed Rivera, 139, Puerto Rico, to start quickly, and in the first round the underdog landed a long right hand. Coggi shortened the distance in the second and scored with a sharp left uppercut. In the third, Rivera suffered a cut above his right eye. Coggi increased the pressure and never relinquished control.

Rivera, who had twice tried for the world junior lightweight title (in 1987 and '88), fought gallantly, with blood pouring down his face. In the sixth, Coggi scored consistently and the challenger's cut became more of a factor. After referee Isidro Rodriguez (Venezuela) summoned the ringside doctor, Rivera, 20-8-2 (13), was given one more round. But it didn't make a difference. The bout was stopped at the 2:50 mark of the seventh.

Coggi, 61-2-2 (36), who was to make his next defense against Japan's Hiroyuki Yoshino on June 23 in Tokyo, looked very strong.

"Rivera was a difficult fight for me," said the champion. "He was a very strong contender, a real warrior, a valiant opponent. I had a little problem with my left shoulder, but no excuses. I know I would have won even if he hadn't been cut."

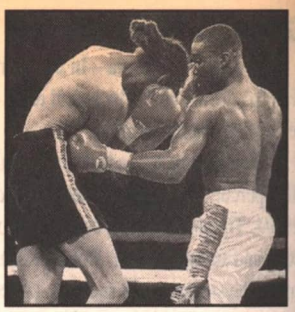
The judges were Rafael Carabanos (Venezuela), Rodolfo Hill (Panama), and Jose Laurino (Uruguay).

The card was promoted by Osvaldo Rivera, who is Coggi's manager.

(4-10-93)

Carlos Irusta

Michael Nunn KO 6 Crawford Ashley



Bodypunches crunched Ashley

Memphis, Tennessee—Nunn, 167 1/2, Davenport, Iowa, was successful in his third defense of the WBA super middleweight title, as he used a wicked body attack to stop England's Ashley, 163, Leeds, via the three-knockdown rule at The Pyramid. Nunn scored five knockdowns, all with bodypunches, and brought an automatic stoppage at the 2:59 mark of the sixth.

The suddenly aggressive Nunn, 41-1 (27), stalked his 6'3" foe from the opening bell. He probed for openings in the first round and closed with an impressive two-handed flurry. Nunn, a southpaw, began to find the range with his left in the second, but Ashley stayed busy with short combinations.

Ashley, 18-5-1 (18), began to give ground in the third, with Nunn ignoring the challenger's reputation as a puncher. Nunn drew blood when a straight left slammed into Ashley's nose, and, in the final 30 seconds, three big lefts briefly stunned the Briton.

In the fourth, Nunn found the weapon that would end the fight. He trapped Ashley in the challenger's own corner and ripped lefts to the body. Nunn again shifted his attack downstairs in the fifth. A short left felled Ashley with 30 seconds remaining, and another left downed him just before the bell.

Gasping for air, Ashley managed a desperate flurry midway through the sixth, but Nunn then put him down with another left to the ribs. With a minute left, Nunn drove Ashley to one knee, and in the final seconds, yet another knockdown brought the stoppage. Ringside doctors speculated that Ashley had suffered two cracked ribs.

"The body shots are a secret weapon," said Nunn. "We wanted to concentrate on boxing, but when I saw he couldn't take it to the body, I went after him."

(4-23-93)

Tommy Deas

Miguel Angel Gonzalez W 12 Hector Lopez

Aguacalientes, Mexico—WBC lightweight champion Gonzalez went the distance for the third consecutive fight, keeping the crown with a solid unanimous decision before a crowd of about 5,000 at the Plaza Monumental bullring.

Lopez, 134, Glendale, California, came down from the junior welterweight class to engage in the first world title fight between two former Mexican Olympians. He hurt Gonzalez, 135, in the fourth round and almost lifted the title.

"The knockout escaped me only because Miguel was in great condition," sighed Lopez, 24-2-1 (11). "He's very brave and strong, a good champion, but he didn't beat me. I hope he'll give me a rematch."

Gonzalez made the mistake of going toe to toe with Lopez in the fourth and nearly paid for it. Hooks to the head, a flurry along the ropes, and two rights had the champion reeling. But he countered and held on until the bell.

"I admit that Hector hurt me," he said. "But I showed my ability by being the one who was throwing the punches at the end of the round. Then my corner told me to fight with my head, not my heart, and I demonstrated that I am the true champion."

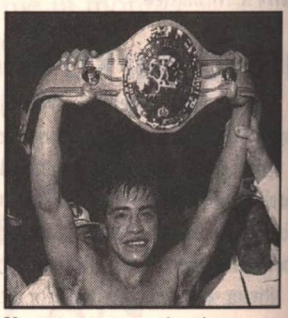
Gonzalez, 28-0 (23), outboxed Lopez over most of the final eight rounds, using movement, jabs, counters, and combinations. The frustrated Lopez ended the bout with his right eye swollen shut and his left eye badly bruised.

Gonzalez triumphed by scores of 115-112, 117-112, and 117-111.

(4-26-93)

Bruce Williams

Gregorio Vargas KO 7 Paul Hodkinson



Vargas was a surprise victor

Dublin, Ireland—A supremely confident and stunningly ruthless "Goyo" Vargas, 125 1/2, Mexico, performed outstandingly to annex the WBC featherweight title from Hodkinson, 125 1/4, Liverpool, England, at a sold-out National Stadium.

The predominantly pro-Hoko crowd appreciated Vargas' effort; he withstood the champion's relentless pressure, retaliated with authority and class, and produced the power and instincts to put his foe away.

Vargas, the top-rated WBC contender, made a statement in the first round, when he buckled Hoko's legs with a meaty straight right. Hoko reclaimed the initiative in the second, scoring with vicious blows to the head and body. At this point, Vargas wisely decided to explore the confines of the 22-foot ring.

Vargas jabbed well in the third, but toward the round's end, Hoko exploded. His brutal assault continued in the fourth. The champion, however, could not unsettle Vargas.

The Mexican took charge in the sixth, landing jabs and followup hooks that seldom missed. In the seventh, one of those lefts dropped Hoko flat. He rose shakily at referee Arthur Mercante's count of five, but Vargas' subsequent attack brought an intervention at the 2:27 mark. After six rounds, Hoko was ahead by two, three, and four points.

"I just didn't feel right tonight, but he's a good fighter," was his postfight comment.

The judges were Tony Castellano (USA), Guiseppe Ferrari (Italy), and Kamel Youssef (Egypt).

Promoter: Eastwood Promotions

(4-28-93)

Brian Doogan

Crisanto Espana W 12 Rodolfo Aguilar

Belfast, N. Ireland—It was as much Aguilar's southpaw stance as an injury to Espana's left hand that contributed to the WBA welterweight champion's first defense going the distance. The margin of victory, if not the manner, proved emphatic enough, but Espana's difficulties in penetrating the challenger's defense suggested that similar problems may be encountered in a proposed September defense against another southpaw, Hector Camacho.

In winning the title from Meldrick Taylor, Espana, 147, Belfast, N. Ireland via Venezuela, was purposefully efficient. But against Aguilar, 145 3/4, France via Panama, he was largely ineffectual. He rarely caught the challenger with precise punches, and there was a distinct shortage of his patented multipunch combinations. Aguilar, who rose from the junior welterweight class, lacked the firepower to capitalize.

Espana, 29-0 (25), opened with good use of his jab, but no real damage was done until an accidental clash of heads in round four that produced a minor cut on the bridge of Aguilar's nose. The challenger took the fifth and sixth by forcing the pace. Overcoming the pain from his left hand—a postfight examination revealed considerable swelling to the knuckle of his index finger—Espana rebounded from the seventh to the 10th, then enjoyed his best round in the 11th, during which he scored with several straight rights. At the closing bell, Aguilar, 33-5-2 (13), sported a grotesquely swollen left eye.

The verdict was unanimous, with Nelson Vasquerez (Puerto Rico) scoring 117-110, Frank Mayez (Holland) 120-110, and Washington Gonzalez (Chile) 119-110. *The Ring* saw it 118-110 for Espana. The referee was John Coyle (England).

Promoter: Eastwood Promotions

(5-5-93)

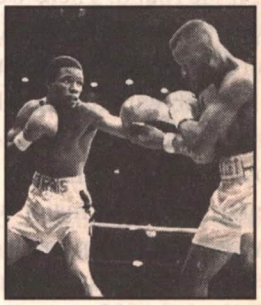
Brian Doogan

Reggie Johnson W 12 Wayne Harris

Denver, Colorado—When the announcement came that Argentina's Jorge Castro, a whirlwind brawler with a style reminiscent of countryman Luis Firpo, would not challenge Johnson for the WBA middleweight title, and that in his place would be the unknown Harris, the ticket sellers at McNichols Arena might as well have shut their windows down.

Summoned when Castro pulled out because of a staph infection in his right elbow, Harris accepted the bout on five days notice. When the challenger displayed his 6'2", 160-pound frame to the crowd, there were shouts of "timber!" But he dispelled all cynicism with a game, albeit outclassed, performance.

Harris fought well in the early going, popping the left-handed Johnson, 160, Houston, with jabs and occasionally dropping in a right. But when the Guyanan slowed, Johnson began to savagely pound the body. In the fifth, a right hook sent the challenger's mouthpiece sailing, and by the eighth, Harris' hands hung low. To Harris' credit, there was never the threat of a kayo. As it turned out, more hazardous than Johnson's punches was the dangerously short ring apron. Harris repeatedly slipped; he skinned his right knee in round five and limped about the ring after being victimized in the 11th.



Harris couldn't hold off Johnson

Harris won the hearts of the fans, but the judges were not nearly as appreciative. They voted unanimously for the champion, with Oscar Perez scoring 120-108, Harmodio Cedeno 120-109, and Marco Rodriguez 120-110.

The referee was Rafael Ramos.

Johnson intends to take the summer off while awaiting a megabucks payday with WBC super welterweight champion Terry Norris or a rematch with IBF super middleweight king James Toney. Harris may also take the summer off—to heal.

(5-4-93)

Ed Walsh

Julio Cesar Chavez KO 6 Terrence Alli

Las Vegas, Nevada—Opening every barrel of his considerable arsenal, Chavez retained the WBC super lightweight title for the 11th time by stopping perennial contender Alli before 12,300 fans at the Thomas & Mack Center. The bout was a feature on the undercard of the Lennox Lewis-Tony Tucker title fight.

Chavez, 140, Culiacan, Mexico, continued to fatten boxing's best record by advancing to 87-0 (72). He earned $1-million for his exercise. Alli, 139 1/2, Linden, New Jersey, via Georgetown, Guyana, 52-7-2 (21), was rated first by all three organizations. He applied constant pressure despite lacking the champion's heavy punching power. For his third try for a world title, he earned $285,000.

Terrence was shown no deference

Alli, a 15-1 underdog whom Chavez described as "a valued warrior," moved toward the champion and traded at a fast pace. His knees were buckled by a first-round right cross, which served to introduce Chavez' entire repertoire. There were double hooks, straight rights, and hooks to the body, some of which came after the bells ending rounds one and two. Two lefts hurt the challenger in the second, and in the fourth Alli began to bleed from cuts inside his mouth. Still, he never stopped firing his own blows.

The beginning of the end came in the fifth, when Alli was hurt by a combination, and, just before the bell, by a right. A hook finally downed him early in the sixth. He easily beat the count of referee Carlos Padilla, but when Chavez kept landing, Padilla interrupted the action. With Chavez turning his back and beginning his celebration, the referee indecisively called a halt at the 45-second mark.

"I wasn't hurt," complained Alli. "The referee stopped it when Chavez threw his arms up. I was in the fight every round and was ready to go 12."

The judges, who gave Chavez every round, were Horatio Castillo (Colombia), Chuck Williams (USA), and Chuck Giampa (USA).

Las Vegas bookmakers opened Chavez as a 5-2 favorite over WBC welterweight champion Pernell Whitaker. The superstars are scheduled to clash on September 10 in San Antonio.

(5-8-93)

Jack Welsh ■

Lennox Lewis

(Continued from page 37)

heavyweights scaling 235. The biggest difference was age. A young 27, Lewis had just begun his run. A faded 34, Tucker had exposed his body to 50 pro bouts and years of drug abuse.

Lewis began as if waiting for Tucker to make a Ruddock-like blunder. He was cautious, but not indifferent; during the rest period he asked trainer Pepe Correa if he had won the round. There were no significant punches until late in the third, when the champion countered a lazy jab with the right hand that had ruined Ruddock. *Boom!* Tucker rose quickly, but Lewis reintroduced his major weapon twice before the round's end.

Lewis' success may have worked against him. For the next three rounds he looked for openings to land another right, and when he found none, he swung anyway, often missing badly. He underused his jab, and gave the impression that he had never been taught the hook. For his part, Tucker took few chances. Unable to land his jab or time his right, he seemed frozen.

After being told by Correa to "back this piece a s- - - up," Lewis, 23-0 (19), sustained his attack over the first half of round seven. He featured several straight and overhand rights, as well as one unexpected right uppercut. Tucker, 48-2 (39) with 1 no-contest, tried to rally in the eighth, but his sudden aggressiveness gave Lewis offensive opportunities, and Tucker returned to his corner on lifeless legs.

Early in the ninth, Lewis struck again, felling the challenger with a right to the top of the head. Showing the same instincts that allowed him to last 12 rounds with Mike Tyson, Tucker held and then punched back, and before the end of the round he was scoring with light lefts and rights.

"I didn't want to punch myself out," said Lewis, who had previously fought as many as eight rounds only twice before. "I used the art of boxing. I guess I should have finished him."

Always a good idea.

Had he finished strongly, Lewis almost surely would have avoided the wrath of the press. But in the 10th and 11th he changed from participant to observer, and Tucker capitalized by moving forward and connecting with an occasional left-right. Lewis harmlessly danced away the 12th, and triumphed by scores of 116-112 (England's Harry Gibbs), 117-111 (Nevada's Jerry Roth), and 118-111 (England's Mickey Vann). The referee was Joe Cortez.

"I thought I had him going a few times, but he showed a lot of guts," said Lewis. "If it was Riddick Bowe, he would've been down on the ground."

* * *

It really isn't relevant whether Lewis was good, mediocre, or unsatisfactory. Anything short of a crushing kayo was going to result in bad reviews. The Englishman shouldn't take it personally, though. Far better heavyweights, including the all-time greats, have been tarred, feathered, and dragged across the sports pages.

No one has been afforded a soft touch. Consider Joe Louis, who won his first 23 bouts and lost only once before beginning the longest title reign in division history. In June 1936, Louis' march to the throne was interrupted by former champion Max Schmeling. The German proved "The Brown Bomber" a sucker for a right hand en route to scoring an upset 12th-round stoppage.

"Far from treating Schmeling as a usurper, the white press and public toasted his victory," wrote Chris Mead in his critically acclaimed biography, *Joe Louis—Black Hero In White America.*

Boxing writers didn't have to reach far to reinforce their feelings. A former champion could always be counted on for an acerbic quote or two.

"Schmeling exposed the fact that Louis has a glass jaw and consequently cannot take a punch," offered Jack Dempsey. "All you have to do to beat him is walk into him with a solid punch. I don't think he'll ever whip another good fighter."

We're sure Louis appreciated the support.

"The Bible Of Boxing" was no kinder. After Louis struggled during a February 1940 split decision over the awkward Arturo Godoy, Nat Fleischer, editor-publisher of *The Ring*, wrote, "The fight was a good one from some points and extremely bad from others. For one, it again proved to the public that Joe Louis is not the great pugilist we have called him, because he doesn't know how to fight an opponent who won't stand up and mix it with him. A clever fighter, a boxer who can bob and weave, befuddles the champion and often makes him look like a novice."

Clearly, Fleischer was hard to impress; the Godoy fight was Louis' *ninth* defense!

An unbeaten record only spurs the press to hit even harder. In March 1950, heavyweight contender Rocky Marciano met another undefeated fighter, Roland LaStarza, in a crossroads clash. The Rock prevailed by close decision, winning by scores of 5-4-1 (in rounds) on two of the cards.

"The 25-year-old bomb-thrower from Brockton, Massachusetts, has

(Continued on page 53)

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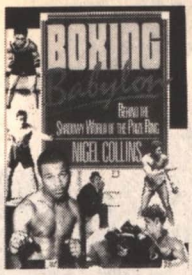

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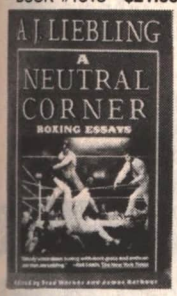

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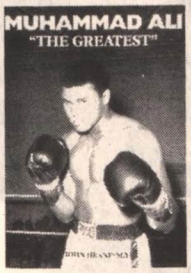

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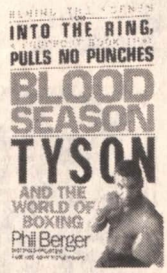

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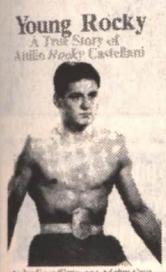

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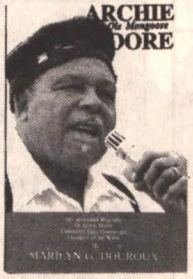

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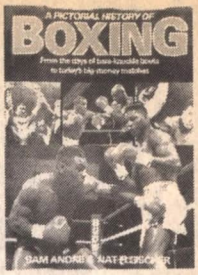

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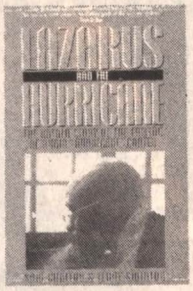

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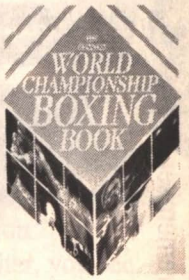

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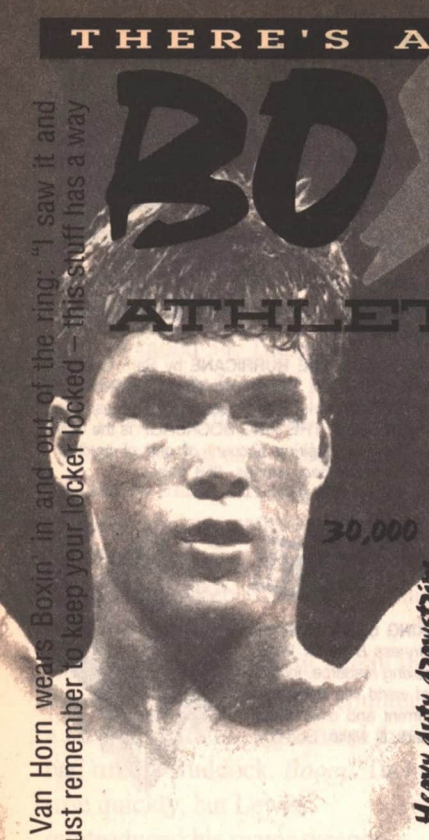

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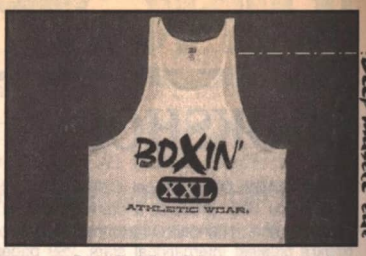

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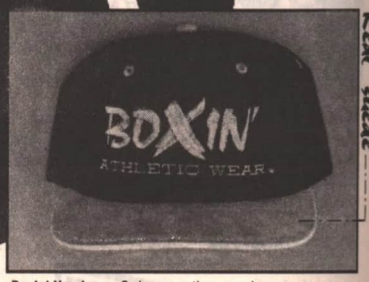

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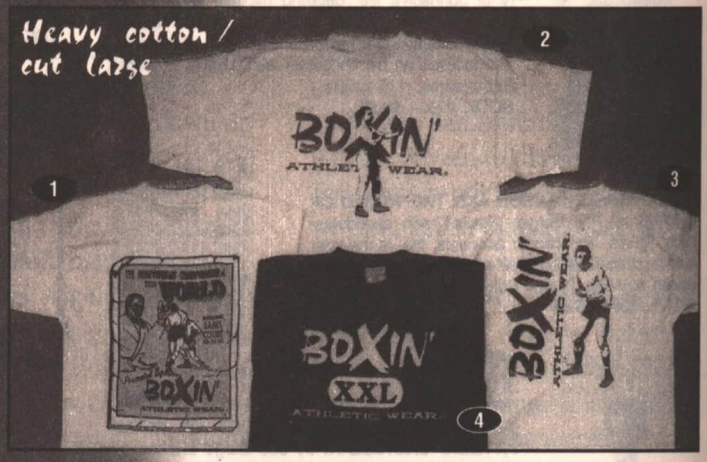

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Lennox Lewis

(Continued from page 50)

an indisputably potent but wildly erratic punch and hardly anything else," wrote Matt Ring in the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*. "Watching him pitch those haymakers, one couldn't help wondering if the 24 knockouts on his record weren't scored against cigar store Indians."

(Now you know where Greg Haugen got the idea for that quote about Julio Cesar Chavez having knocked out a bunch of "Tijuana taxi-drivers.")

Even after Marciano had retired as the only undefeated world titlist in history, he was still being dismissed as limited. The media, it seems, can't help but compare all heavyweight champions to a mythical former king who boxed like Tunney, punched like Louis, moved like Johnson, and trained like Marciano, and had Dempsey's killer instinct, Foreman's size, and Ali's chin.

Speaking of Ali's chin, that's where he took it (as Cassius Clay) after squeaking by Doug Jones in March 1963.

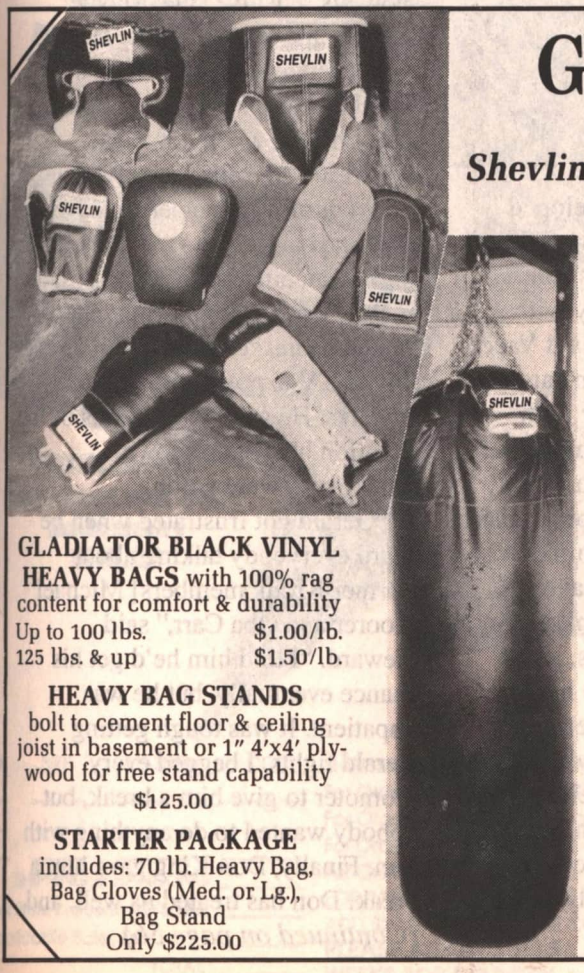
"From the day Cassius Marcellus Clay began popping off during the 1960 Olympic Games that he was the absolute greatest fighter the world has ever known, people have been asking: Is he man or mouth?" wrote boxing scribe Bill McCormick. "The only thing wrong with Clay is that he can't fight."

You might think that Mike Tyson's inexorable rise to the title would have shielded him from admonishment. For the most part, Tyson escaped unscathed. But when he went the distance for the first time, outpointing James Tillis in May 1986, his future was doubted.

" ... Tyson's strange, up-and-down performance in outpointing James Tillis at the Glens Falls Civic Center raised even more questions about the future of the still-unbeaten (20-0, 19 KOs) Tyson in a division he's been expected to rule with iron fists," wrote *Newsday's* Wallace Matthews. "At times, Tyson looked devastating. At times, he looked confused and frustrated. And while horseplayers in Kentucky were wondering whether Snow Chief was bred for distance, boxing observers were wondering the same about Tyson."

For a boxing writer, you see, skepticism is a tool of the trade.

(Continued on page 54)



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Lennox Lewis

(Continued from page 53)

* * *

It's far too early to determine whether Lennox Lewis will become a memorable world champion, or even a legitimate one. At this point, suffice to say that he's nowhere near as good as he looked against Ruddock, and somewhat better than he looked against Tucker. That aside, he must be rated as one of the two best heavyweights in the world, which is why a bout with WBA/IBF champion Riddick Bowe remains a must.

If and when that showdown materializes, Lewis should be mindful of one thing: Impressing Bowe will probably be a lot easier than impressing the press. ■

McClellan

(Continued from page 41)

McClellan and has developed his own theory about the fighter's less-than-cordial disposition.

"He's the kind of guy with a chip on his shoulder," said Vacca. "But he's different from James Toney, who's a bad guy both inside and out of the ring. When Gerald flashes his mean streak, it's more of an acting job, a mask he wears. It's as if he thinks it's expected of him. You have to remember that the Kronk is a gym filled with street toughs, and I think McClellan felt he had to make his bones or something."

"McClellan is a moody guy," agreed booking agent Lindy Lindell, another veteran observer of the Michigan fight scene. "He's not a very friendly person; he doesn't encourage conversation. You'll see him at the fights, just sitting there staring back at you, but seldom saying anything."

To a certain degree, Kronk boss Steward, the man who guided McClellan to the title, reinforces many of the opinions expressed by others.

"Sometimes Gerald gets mad about the simplest things," said Steward. "He wants attention, and used to get jealous when I had to go out of town on business or to work with other fighters. But though he acts tough, inside he's got a good heart."

Regardless of their sometimes-acrimonious relationship, Barber also believes McClellan's gruff demeanor is at least partially a front.

"Basically, I think he's a good guy," said Barber. "But he tries to be hard all the time, doesn't want to show his sensitive side. Maybe winning the title will help. He was happy when I saw him a few days after he beat Jackson, but he still didn't have a whole lot to say."

Part of McClellan's surly style grew out of what he perceived as a slow start in the pro ranks. He grew angry watching other fighters, such as Roy Jones, whom he defeated in the amateurs, zoom past him on the way to TV exposure and major paydays. He was also envious of the attention his better-known stablemates were getting.

"Gerald got frustrated when he heard everybody talking about [former Kronk members] Michael Moorer and Oba Carr," said Steward. "I told him he'd get his chance eventually, but he was impatient. It was tough getting Gerald fights. I begged every promoter to give him a break, but nobody wanted to do anything with him. Finally, Don King gave him a break. Don has treated us well, and

(Continued on page 56)

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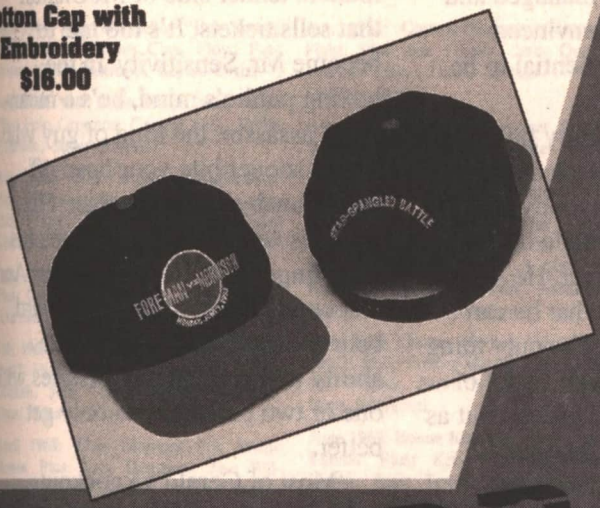

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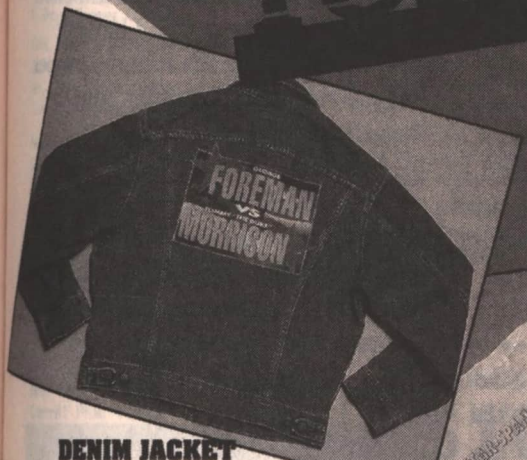

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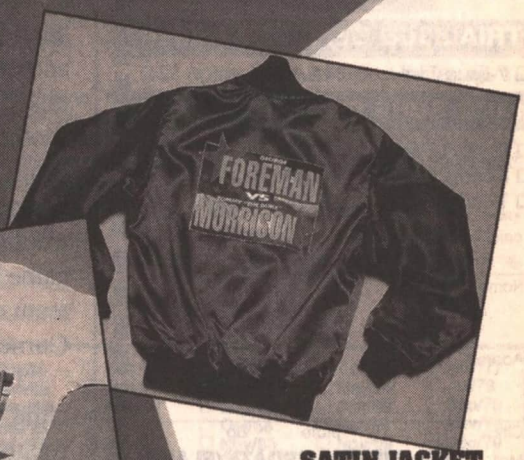

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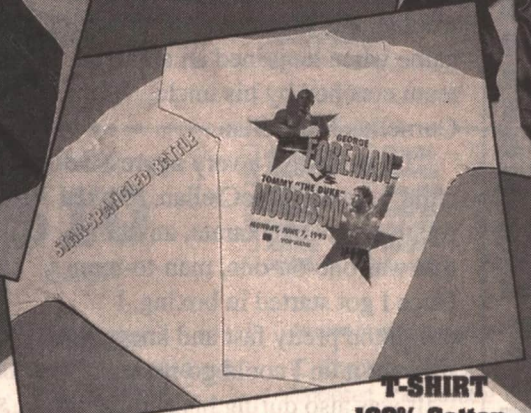

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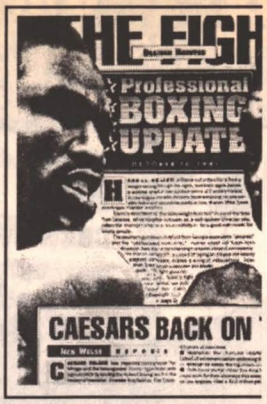

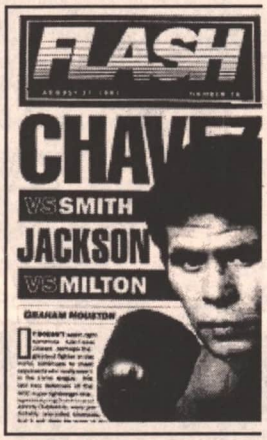

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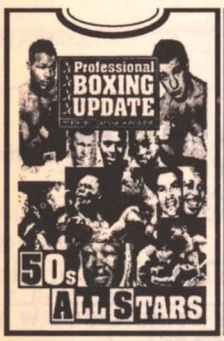

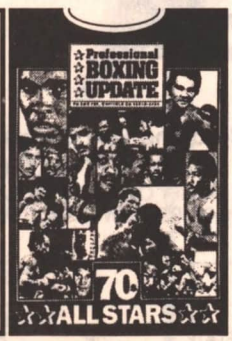

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McClellan

(Continued from page 54)

we're going to stay with him all the way."

Despite the numerous champions and contenders he's managed and trained, Steward is convinced McClellan has the potential to be the best of them all.

"He's always been my favorite," maintained Steward. "He has more natural talent than anybody I've ever worked with. People haven't seen the best of him yet. He showed about 75 percent of what he can be in the Jackson fight. The only thing that can stop him is him. A lot of guys can't deal with success, but as long as Gerald stays anxious to learn and keeps good training habits, he can beat anybody."

Despite McClellan's menacing persona, he's not an ex-con, former gang member, or reformed drug addict. Quite the contrary. He was raised, along with three sisters and a brother, in the stable household of Emitt and Genola McClellan, and has never been in any sort of serious trouble. His first exposure to boxing came when he joined an amateur team coached by his uncle, Cornelius McClellan.

"I was always a very aggressive child," recalled McClellan. "I liked rough sports like karate, anything that was one-on-one, man-to-man. Once I got started in boxing, I caught on pretty fast and knew that if I kept it up I could go places."

It was also during his childhood that McClellan formed a fondness for dogs. It's a lifelong affinity that helps illuminate his complex and often contradictory personality.

"When I was a kid I would find strays and take them home with me and hide them, sometimes in the basement, sometimes in the garage," he recalled. "My mother would find them and tell me get rid of them. But you know how mothers are. She usually ended up letting me keep them. I always liked dogs. You know what they say: Dog is man's best friend. Once they like you, they're always loyal."

But let's face it, it's not the hidden, tender side of McClellan that sells tickets. It's too late to become Mr. Sensitivity. In the boxing public's mind, he's a mean-faced assassin, the kind of guy who would sooner bite your head off than munch on a hamburger. His fortunes will rise only as far as his punching power will carry him. And that could be a long way. Steward believes McClellan's awesome ability to dispose of adversaries with one or two punches can only get better.

"Most of Gerald's knockouts have come from either right hands to the head or left hooks to the body," said Steward. "He's knocked out so many guys early, I haven't had the time to teach him the proper way to throw a left hook to the head."

Pity opponents if McClellan ever masters the complete repertoire of punches Steward envisions. And pity McClellan if Steward catches him racing his Suzuki down Freeport's main drag. ■

Marino

(Continued from page 43)

succumbing to a subdural hemorrhage on the right side of the brain at 2:30 a.m. on February 1.

(Judge I.L. Flato, the owner of Ridgewood Grove, staged a benefit show to help raise funds for Marino's family. Quintana readily offered to headline the card of fighters, all of whom performed

(Continued on page 58)

'60s & '70s ISSUES

When Cassius Clay made his pro debut in 1960, *The Ring* was there. When "The Greatest" fought Joe Frazier for the heavyweight title in 1971, *The Ring* was there. Before Carlos Monzon, Jose Napoles, and Roberto Duran made names for themselves, the readers of *The Ring* were already talking about them. *The Ring* covered all the boxing events and personalities of the '60s and '70s as no other magazine could—and now a limited supply of back issues from those two decades are available for $10 each (including postage and handling).

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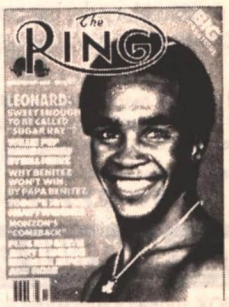

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Marino

(Continued from page 56)

without pay.)

Although two other ring fatalities had occurred in the New York area within the previous year, Marino's would prove to be a turning point. Dr. Eugene Kenny, who had examined the fighter prior to his final bout and found him to be in good health, stated the boxer's death was "one of those things; it is absolutely unaccountable." Unaccountable, perhaps. But in an effort to prove that it wasn't entirely in vain, the New York State Athletic Commission convened on February 3 to frame a new rule.

Citing Marino's death, the commission empowered referees to stop a contest in which a fighter has been knocked down three times in a single round.

Though not a well-remembered champion, Marino had an impact that reached farther than most. Thanks in part to his rueful demise, the three-knockdown rule eventually became a staple in the sport of boxing, and in turn, many fighters have been spared an "absolutely unaccountable" end.

Vernon Gravely is a freelance writer based in Columbia, Missouri. ■

Wright

(Continued from page 16)

was on the undercard of Henry Maske's upset of defending IBF light heavyweight champion Prince Charles Williams. It was then that a lot of people began to take notice.

"He's a happy-go-lucky kid who is going to be a champion," said Dan Birmingham. "I know he'll be a champion. I saw indications even when he was an amateur. We were offered a title fight with [WBA junior middleweight champion] Julio Cesar Vasquez already, but we want to get him another three or four 10-round fights under his belt. I feel Winky could beat him tomorrow. But we don't want to rush him. We just want a little more experience."

Wright's professional career has developed according to the Birminghams' plan. Wright admits he isn't a knockout puncher. (He has 12 kayos in 19 fights.) But he is a southpaw, which causes opponents problems, and he offers a lot of movement and good hand speed. According to Dan Birmingham, "His only weaknesses are pizza and girls, and I hope it stays that way." Winky agreed.

"I've dominated every fight I've fought," said Wright, who got his nickname from his mother because he is said to have winked at the nurses in the hospital when he was born. "I've never even lost a round. We're right on target for a title fight at the end of the year. I feel I'm ready. I wouldn't say I'm a knockout guy, but if you stand there, I'll hit you. I like to move around and counterpunch. I do eat a lot of pizza, but that woman part, I'm trying not to mess with that."

Something that's been messed with plenty is Wright's weight. When he began training, he was at 132 pounds. At the end of his amateur career, he fought at 139. As a pro, he's fought as high as 158 and as low as 146. When he realized Winky was having a tough time making weight, Dan Birmingham decided to let him grow and see what happened.

In Wright's first European fight, against veteran Darryl Lattimore in January, he struggled to make 150 pounds. Still, Lattimore went down

in the first round. Later in the same month, Wright scaled 146 for a decision victory over Roland Commings. With Winky eating what he wants, Birmingham has been a bit surprised that the fighter hasn't lost any movement or punching power. Wright fought at 154 when he decisioned spoiler Eric Holland on the Maske-Williams card in March.

Wright is rated eighth by the WBA and 22nd by the WBC at 154 pounds. Birmingham expects him to soon be ranked by the IBF as well. As we went to press, Wright was scheduled to fight at the end of May in Florida, and again in June and August in France. The August fight could be with a top-10 contender. A title fight with Vasquez is on hold.

In a year or two, Wright could be a middleweight. He expects WBC super welterweight champion Terry Norris to move up as well, and hopes a meeting between the two will materialize. While he recognizes how close he is to a title shot, and how ready he feels, he remains behind the decision of his managers to wait.

"I'd like to fight Terry Norris down the road, but I'm not ready for him right now," he said. "It would be a good learning experience, and hopefully I would win it. But I'm just 21, so even if I lose I'll be back to fight another day. Not everyone gets a shot, so if I get one, I'll take it." ■

Vasquez

(Continued from page 23)

Vasquez has changed managers a number of times. Lemos remains his trainer, and Buenos Aires Boxing is the organization that exposed him to U.S. fans. The 154-

(Continued on page 60)

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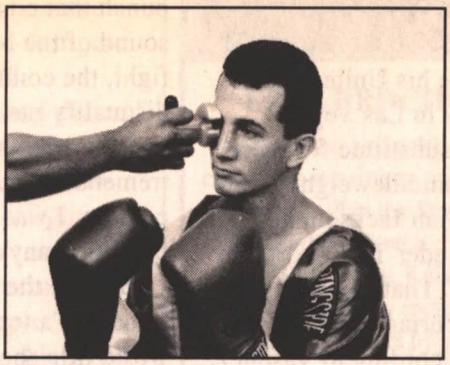

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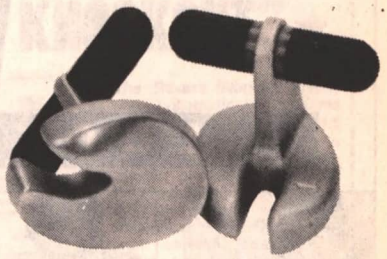

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Vasquez

(Continued from page 59)

pounder made his United States debut in 1989 in Las Vegas, fighting as a substitute for then-WBA junior middleweight champion Julian Jackson, and kayoed contender Troy Wortham in six rounds. That should have meant an important international future. But according to Vasquez, Buenos Aires Boxing didn't arrange any important fights, so he decided to change to soccer businessman and Coggi manager Osvaldo Rivero. Under Rivero, Vasquez' career developed. He was 30-0 when he suffered his first and only setback, a controversial disqualification to Vernon Phillips in June 1991 in Santa Fe.

"The athletic commission changed the decision four times," said Vasquez. "It concerned a punch that connected with the sound of the bell. A day after the fight, the commission decided to disqualify me. It was my only loss, and I think they made a tremendous mistake. But, I confess, I was in bad [physical] condition anyway."

Despite the loss, Vasquez remained a top contender. Still, a world title shot proved elusive. He was scheduled to fight then-WBA champion Vinny Pazienza, but that was cancelled when Pazienza suffered serious injuries in a car accident. A year later, Aaron "Superman" Davis was named to fight Vasquez for the vacant title, but when promoters chose Buenos Aires as the site, Davis backed out. The WBA then sanctioned a fight between Vasquez and unaccomplished contender Hitoshi Kamiyama. Vasquez finally had his chance, and the Japanese visitor failed to last one round.

"It was not my fault," said Vasquez, who is quiet and unassuming. "I was working to fight Pazienza first, then Davis, not Kamiyama. They quit. Rivero tells me I can fight Davis soon. I feel very happy and confident, because I know I need an important name in my career, and Davis could be the man, especially if I can beat him in New York. He is the number-one contender, and he will get his chance. I'm the world champion and I need exposure in the United States." (As we went to press, it appeared that Vasquez-Davis would land in Monaco.)

Since winning the title, Vasquez has fought three times,

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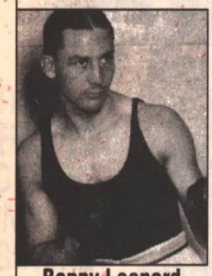
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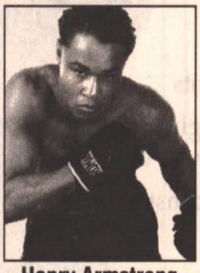
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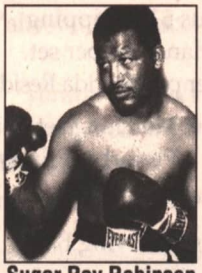
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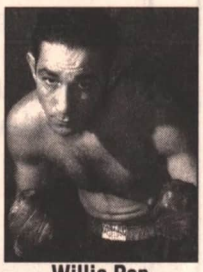
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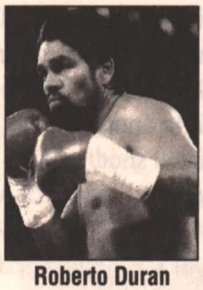
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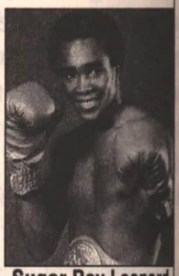
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raising his record to 43-1 (32). In February, he kayoed Aquilino Asprilla in the first round. A month later, he took three rounds to knock out Angel Moguea in a non-title fight in France. And in April, he scored a knockdown en route to a points victory over Spanish title challenger Francisco Castillejo in Madrid.

It was inevitable: Given his recent success, Vasquez is being spoken of as the next Monzon.

"I don't like comparisons," he said. "I want to be Vasquez, that's all. But I want to be more than a champion. I want to be great, and boxing people know greatness is really a very difficult goal for anybody." ■

Carlos Irusta, a writer for Argentina's El Graphico, is a frequent contributor to The Ring.

Artemiev

(Continued from page 31)

both eyes and from a cut on the bridge of his nose. It took 72 stitches to close his wounds.

I can remember my father coming home after some fights and being so sore that he couldn't get out of bed for days.

He fought for 18 years and was a contender in three divisions. Somehow, a shot at the title always managed to elude him.

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He has told me it was. He has no regrets. He had no fears.

"I never thought I was risking my life," he said. "I don't think anyone goes into the ring thinking that. A good fighter thinks he's better than anyone else in the world. He never thinks he will get knocked out. It goes against his will. It goes against everything he stands for."

Why, then, would he never allow his two sons to compete in the sport he loved?

"It was the business I chose," he said. "It's not a business I'd want for anyone else. I know the pain and torture a fighter goes through. I didn't want that for my sons. It's a business for extremely tough people."

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"This kid is one of a kind," said Gallagher. "He looks at this like it's the cards he's been dealt. Sergei may have a disability, but he has more strength than anybody I've ever met."

Who, though, could be proud of boxing?

(Continued on page 64)

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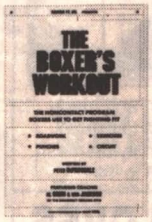

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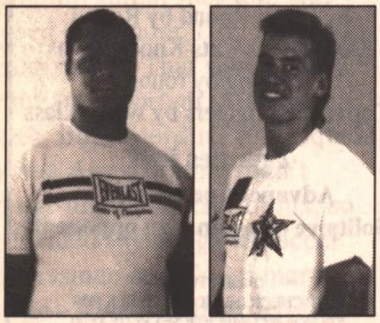

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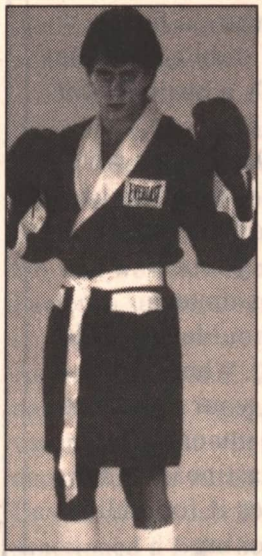

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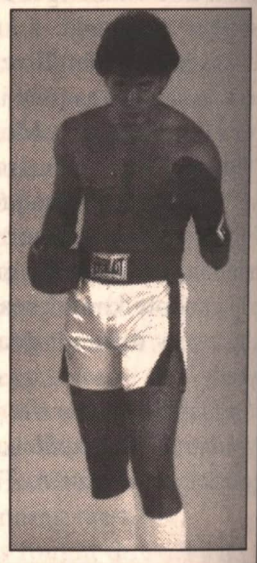

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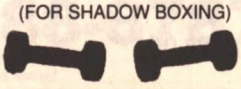

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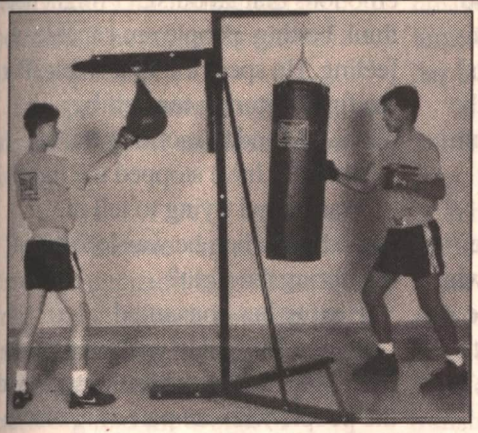

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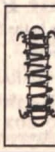

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Artemiev

(Continued from page 61)

Promoter Bob Arum, who promised Artemiev a world title fight if he beat Griffith, donated $5,000 to the Artemiev fund. And Katz, who stood with Gallagher at the Atlantic City Medical Center until 7 a.m. of the morning after the bout, presented Artemiev with a title belt that read "Universal Champion."

The *New York Post's* Pete Coutros took exception to the proceedings, intimating that Artemiev will soon be forgotten. It's happened before. Better boxers than Artemiev have been forgotten. You read about a Sandy Saddler or a Kid Gavilan, both of whom live far below the poverty line, their health declining rapidly. The thought of it shreds your heart.

But it was hardly the time or place for Coutros to launch into a profanity-laced tirade at Katz, Trump, and Arum. Not with Artemiev and his lovely wife sitting across the room. Only in boxing can something that is intended to be good turn out to be bad.

"We didn't expect anything," said Gallagher. "But it should be a promoter's obligation to make sure steps are taken for somebody who gets hurt. There are no rules in this freakin' business. [The promoters] copout is that they are going by the rules when they pay [the minimum] $500 for insurance. They're all looking out for themselves."

"I would love them to help me," Artemiev said of the promoters who get rich because other men do the fighting. "But this is not their duty. It's up to them. I devoted my life to boxing. I think special attention should be made to cases like me. I have no one to rely on in this country except the people who are around me."

The $5,000 from Arum certainly won't last long, and the belt won't get Artemiev very far, either. But the symbolism of that belt may get him through a rough day. It may inspire him to work harder at rehabilitation. It should never allow him to forget that he is indeed a champion in life.

"To the kid, this belt means everything," said Gallagher, who has moved Artemiev and his wife into his own home in Howard Beach, New York. "His whole life he wanted that belt. He said to me, `I wish I could have earned this. But at least it showed me people thought I could have been a champion.'"

Later that evening, as Artemiev sat in Gallagher's living room, smiling and clutching his new belt, he said to his trainer: "This almost makes my injury worth it."

***

"It's only worth it if the people who are behind you, the guys you are potentially going to make wealthy, are looking out for you," Gallagher said later.

The trainer admits that his passion for boxing is now secondary to his appreciation for life. A former New York Golden Gloves champion, Gallagher is a tough-talking trainer and a master motivator in the corner. But since the Griffith fight he has battled emotions that an outsider might not think boxing people are capable of feeling. He spent the first week after the fight torturing himself by playing Monday morning trainer.

Should I have stopped the fight?

Was Sergei trying to tell me something when he was looking at me during the fight?

Boxing has consumed Gallagher's life. He will continue to train fighters. He loves the sport and the people who are part of it. Not so much the people in the suits and ties, but, as he puts it, "the people on the front lines."

"I'm in this business my whole life," he said. "Because this is my environment. My element. We are tough people, but we know how to be gentlemen, too. We are a special breed of people."

***

As a boxing journalist, my perspective has changed again. I am not watching my father in the ring, and the fighting has become somewhat less personal. But the violence can never again be abstract to me.

Thankfully, I've never been at a fight in which a boxer has been seriously injured. I have watched world champions go to war for more money than I will make in my entire life. I have watched four-round fighters trade vicious punches for less money than Donald Trump spends on shoes. I know how the winner and loser will feel the next morning.

Boxing is clearly a brutal game. Joe Frazier has said that if a man doesn't want to fight, there is no way you can make him. A fighter

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walks into the ring willingly. And there are still a lot of people who willingly pay to see it.

What has happened to Sergei Artemiev doesn't happen often. Just as what happened to the New York Jets' Dennis Byrd last year doesn't happen often, either. Nobody calls for football to be abolished. The same should be true for boxing.

If the participants can justify the risk, for whatever motivation, so can I.

***

Belina Artemiev stood by her husband's decision to become a boxer, and continues to stand by him today. When he was recruited by Gallagher to leave St. Petersburg and the world of amateur boxing to fight in the United States for money and titles, she came with him. When the dream turned into a nightmare, she was at Sergei's bedside every day, willing her husband to get better.

Six weeks later, at Gallagher's home, she cautions me not to ask too many questions of her husband because it is not good for him. When I ask her about Sergei, her eyes well up.

"His life is my life," she said, a tear trickling from her soft brown eyes. "I get strength from him."

When Sergei smiles, Belina smiles, too. When they are in the same room, she rarely leaves his side and frequently drapes her arms around him. When he is at a loss for words, she helps him translate. These are her motherly instincts.

Belina saw Sergei fight only once. It was his seventh pro fight and the only other loss of his career. She wouldn't go back.

"I never saw him fight again," she said. "I was scared, really scared."

Belina drove to Atlantic City the day after the fight. She remembers thinking only the worst. Today, she is happy. The family smiles a lot because they know what could have been. She has a husband again, and four-month-old Peter Artemiev, who was named after Peter the Great, has a father again.

When Sergei and Belina are asked if Peter will ever put on a pair of boxing gloves, they say the choice will be his. ■

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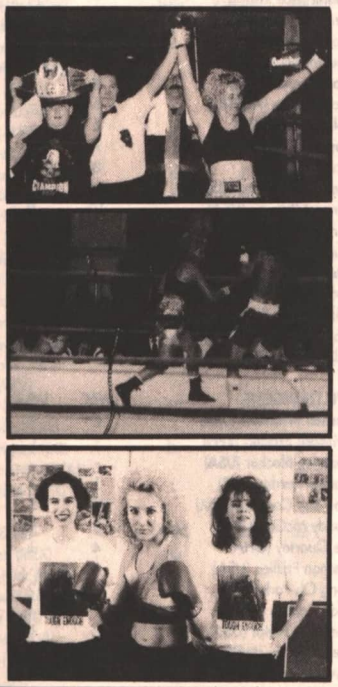

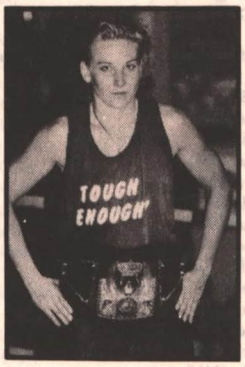

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WBC
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IBF
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HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	-	-
Riddick Bowe (USA)	-	C	C
Tony Tucker (USA)	1	1	2
Evander Holyfield (USA)	2	3	5
Alex Garcia (USA)	3	5	8
Michael Moorer (USA)	4	2	3
Alex Stewart (JAM)	5	8	9
Oliver McCall (USA)	6	6	4
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	7	11	-
Frank Bruno (GB)	8	9	6
Tony Tubbs (USA)	9	-	-
Lionel Butler (USA)	10	-	-
George Foreman (USA)	-	4	1
Tommy Morrison (USA)	-	7	7
Herbie Hide (GB)	-	10	12
Mike Hunter (USA)	13	-	10

CRUISERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	-	-
Bobby Czyz (USA)	-	C	-
Alfred Cole (USA)	-	-	C
Akim Tafer (FRA)	1	3	6
Orlin Norris (USA)	2	1	1
Nate Miller (USA)	3	5	2
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	4	2	5
Robert Daniels (USA)	5	7	12
Masimiliano Duran (ITA)	6	12	-
Jeff Lampkin (USA)	7	-	-
Arthur Williams (USA)	8	4	4
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	9	6	7
Derek Angol (GB)	10	-	-
James Warring (USA)	13	8	8
Kenny Keene (USA)	15	9	-
Richard Mason (USA)	11	10	11
Uriah Grant (USA)	-	-	3
Jade Scott (USA)	14	-	9
Frans Botha (SA)	18	11	10

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	-	-
Virgil Hill (USA)	-	C	-
Henry Maske (GER)	-	-	C
Frank Tate (USA)	1	1	3
Randall Yonker (USA)	2	7	-
Anthony Hembrick (USA)	3	-	1
Guy Waters (AUSTRL)	4	-	-
Mike McCallum (JAM)	5	-	-
David Vedder (USA)	6	-	-
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	7	-	2
Wan Sub Lee (KOR)	8	2	-
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	9	5	6
Charles Williams (USA)	10	6	4
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	-	3	-
Victor Cordoba (PAN)	-	4	-
Yawe Davis (ITA)	12	8	-
Crawford Ashley (GB)	-	9	-
Isaias Lucero (MEX)	22	10	-
Iran Barkley (USA)	-	-	5
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	-	12	7
Darjusz Michalczawski (POL)	16	-	8
Adolpho Washington (USA)	-	-	9
Tim Hillie (USA)	-	11	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	-	-
Michael Nunn (USA)	-	C	-
James Toney (USA)	-	-	C
Henry Wharton (GB)	1	8	6
Tim Littles (USA)	2	1	2
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	3	6	1
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	4	-	-
Frank Liles (USA)	5	2	7
Tony Thornton (USA)	6	12	3
Thulani Malinga (SA)	7	-	-
Tony Byrd (USA)	8	3	5
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	9	4	11
James Cook (GB)	10	11	-
Ray Close (GB)	14	5	8
Iran Barkley (USA)	-	7	-
Fidel Castro Smith (GB)	12	9	-
Merqui Sosa (DR)	20	10	9
Steve Little (USA)	18	-	4
Mwehu Beya (ITA)	16	-	10

MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julian Jackson (VI)	C	-	-
Reggie Johnson (USA)	-	C	-
Lamar Parks (USA)	1	4	3
Thomas Tate (USA)	2	-	4
Steve Collins (USA)	3	6	-
Frederic Seillier (FRA)	4	-	-
Otis Grant (CAN)	5	11	-
Francesco Dell'Aquila (ITA)	6	10	-
Frank Grant (GB)	7	-	9
Joe Gatti (USA)	8	5	10
Tyrone Trice (USA)	9	-	-
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	10	-	-
Sumbu Kalambay (ITA)	-	1	6
Roy Jones (USA)	-	2	2
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	-	3	1
Jorge Castro (ARG)	-	7	12
Mike McCallum (JAM)	-	8	7
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	20	9	-
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	-	-	5
Gilbert Baptist (USA)	12	-	8

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	-	-
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	-	C	-
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	-	-	C
Simon Brown (USA)	1	5	-
Aaron Davis (USA)	2	1	6
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	3	4	7
Carl Daniels (USA)	4	6	2
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	5	-	4
Felix Trinidad (PR)	6	-	-
Yung Kil Chung (KOR)	7	3	-
Andy Till (GB)	8	-	10
Stephen Martinez (USA)	9	-	12
Vincent Pettway (USA)	10	9	1
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	11	2	-
Curtis Summit (USA)	-	7	9
Vernon Phillips (USA)	-	8	-
Francisco Castillejo (SPA)	-	10	-
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	13	12	3
Lloyd Honeyghan (GB)	19	-	5
Julio Green (USA)	-	-	8

WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	-	-
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	-	C	-
Maurice Blocker (USA)	-	-	C
Santos Cardona (PR)	1	-	-
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	2	3	2
Buddy McGirt (USA)	3	10	6
Ike Quartey (GHA)	4	1	10
Vernon Phillips (USA)	5	-	-
Jong Oh Park (KOR)	6	2	-
Gary Jacobs (GB)	7	4	-
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	8	5	9
Genaro Leon (MEX)	9	9	-
Larry Barnes (USA)	10	-	5
Kevin Pompey (USA)	11	6	3
Moises Rivera (PR)	-	7	-
Luis Garcia (VEN)	19	8	1
Stephan Johnson (USA)	13	-	4
Felix Trinidad (PR)	-	-	7
David Gonzales (USA)	-	-	8

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	**C**	-	-
Juan Coggi (ARG)	-	**C**	-
Terrence Alli (USA)	1	2	1
Frankie Randall (USA)	2	3	6
Hector Camacho (PR)	3	-	-
Valery Kayumba (ZAI)	4	1	-
Greg Haugen (USA)	5	-	-
Andy Holligan (GB)	6	11	5
Kostya Tszyu (CIS)	7	-	8
Pedro Sanchez (DR)	8	-	9
Vincent Phillips (USA)	9	8	7
Zack Padilla (USA)	10	-	-
Loreto Garza (USA)	16	4	-
Morris East (PHIL)	-	5	-
Alberto Cortes (ARG)	-	6	-
Hector Lopez (USA)	-	7	-
Hiroyuki Yoshino (JAP)	-	9	-
Eder Gonzalez (COL)	-	10	-
Charles Murray (USA)	-	-	2
Rodney Moore (USA)	-	-	3
Rafael Pineda (COL)	-	-	4
Juan LaPorte (PR)	-	-	10

LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Miguel Gonzalez (MEX)	**C**	-	-
Tony Lopez (USA)	-	**C**	-
Fred Pendleton (USA)	-	-	**C**
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	1	5	1
Leavander Johnson (USA)	2	-	4
Jean Mendy (FRA)	3	6	3
Darryl Tyson (USA)	4	12	-
Hector Lopez (MEX)	5	-	-
Nazarov Olzubek (CIS)	6	1	-
Wilfrido Rocha (COL)	7	-	-
Chad Broussard (USA)	8	10	-
Miguel Julio (COL)	9	8	2
David Sample (USA)	10	-	-
Dingaan Thobela (SA)	12	2	-
Shamba Mitchell (USA)	-	3	8
Joey Gamache (USA)	13	4	10
Fabian Tejeda (ARG)	18	7	-
Jorge Paez (MEX)	-	9	6
Tracy Spann (USA)	17	-	5
Eduardo Molina (COL)	26	-	7
Carl Griffith (USA)	15	11	9

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	**C**	-	-
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	-	**C**	-
John-John Molina (PR)	-	-	**C**
Regilio Tuur (HOLL)	1	12	7
Gabe Ruelas (USA)	2	3	6
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	3	-	-
Calvin Grove (USA)	4	-	5
Renato Cornett (AUSTRL)	5	4	9
Jimmy Garcia (COL)	6	-	-
Tiger Ari (PHIL)	7	8	10
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	8	5	-
Frankie Avelar (USA)	9	-	8
Ed Hopson (USA)	10	-	-
Harold Warren (USA)	-	1	-
Jesus Gutierrez (PAN)	27	2	-
Marcos Guevara (VEN)	20	6	-
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	-	7	-
Raul Perez (MEX)	-	9	-
John Brown (USA)	15	10	11
Bernard Taylor (USA)	-	-	1
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	21	11	2
Orlando Marimon (COL)	-	-	3
Manuel Medina (MEX)	-	-	4

FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	**C**	-	-
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	-	**C**	-
Tom Johnson (USA)	-	-	**C**
Kevin Kelley (USA)	1	1	1
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	2	-	12
James Leija (USA)	3	6	3
Jose Ramos (DR)	4	-	-
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	5	-	10
Tony Green (USA)	6	-	4
Ever Beleno (COL)	7	4	8
Seiji Asakawa (JAP)	8	7	-
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	9	3	-
Colin McMillan (GB)	10	-	-
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	-	2	-
Orlando Soto (PAN)	-	5	2
Cris Saguid (PHIL)	13	8	-
Giovanni Nieves (VEN)	-	9	-
Tae Sik Chun (KOR)	24	10	-
Baby Rojas (COL)	-	-	5
Moises Pedroza (COL)	-	-	6
Maurizio Stecca (ITA)	16	-	7
Harold Warren (USA)	-	-	9

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Tracy Patterson (USA)	**C**	-	-
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	-	**C**	-
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	-	-	**C**
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	1	-	-
Jesus Salud (USA)	2	7	1
Julio Gervacio (DR)	3	-	3
Rudy Zavala (USA)	4	11	5
Cesar Soto (MEX)	5	-	4
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	6	1	-
Jose Garcia (DR)	7	-	-
Welcome Ncita (SA)	8	10	2
Jesse Benavides (USA)	9	-	-
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	10	4	-
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	27	2	-
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	15	3	-
Luis Mendoza (COL)	12	5	11
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	24	6	-
Arnullo Romero (PAN)	26	8	-
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	-	9	-
Nurhuda (INDO)	28	-	6
Cesar Polanco (DR)	20	-	7
Maui Diaz (USA)	18	-	8
Richard Duran (USA)	-	-	9
Jose Rincones (VEN)	-	12	10

BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jung Il Byun (KOR)	**C**	-	-
Eliecer Julio (COL)	-	**C**	-
Orlando Canizales (USA)	-	-	**C**
Junior Jones (USA)	1	1	1
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	2	11	12
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	3	-	-
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	4	2	-
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	5	5	-
Josefino Suarez (MEX)	6	-	-
Eddie Cook (USA)	7	4	6
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	8	6	-
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	9	-	-
Jesus Sarabia (USA)	10	10	-
Abraham Torres (VEN)	26	3	4
Nana Konadu (GHA)	-	7	-
Alfred Kotey (GHA)	-	8	-
Israel Contreras (VEN)	-	9	-
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	-	-	2
Harold Mestre (COL)	25	12	3
Junai Ramayana (INDO)	-	-	5
Clarence Adams (USA)	23	-	7
Samuel Duran (PHIL)	13	-	8
Luis Rolon (PR)	-	-	9
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	-	-	10

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	**C**	-	-
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	-	**C**	-
Julio Borboa (MEX)	-	-	**C**
Greg Richardson (USA)	1	-	-
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay (THAI)	2	1	-
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	3	-	-
Armando Salazar (MEX)	4	-	-
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	5	-	7
Nana Konadu (GHA)	6	-	-
Marco Barrera (MEX)	7	-	-
Bernardo Mendoza (CHILE)	8	-	-
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	9	-	-
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	10	-	12
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	16	2	-
Hyun Chul Lee (KOR)	14	3	-
Joel Luna (MEX)	-	4	1
Armando Castro (MEX)	17	5	-
Josefino Suarez (MEX)	-	6	9
David Marchan (VEN)	-	7	-
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	-	8	-
Carlos Mercado (COL)	25	9	2
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	29	10	10
San S. Pleonchit (THAI)	-	-	3
Robert Quiroga (USA)	20	-	4
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	-	-	5
Little Guns Pumar (PHIL)	-	-	6
John Johnson (USA)	-	-	8

FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (CIS)	**C**	-	-
David Griman (VEN)	-	**C**	-
Phichit Sithbangprachan (THAI)	-	-	**C**
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	1	-	1
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	2	-	-
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	3	6	-
Al Kotey (GHA)	4	-	-
Hugo Soto (ARG)	5	-	-
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	6	-	-
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	7	-	-
Muangchai Kittikasem (THAI)	8	-	-
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	9	-	-
Scotty Olson (CAN)	10	-	3
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	12	1	7
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	-	2	-
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	-	3	-
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	-	4	-
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	-	5	-
Hisashi Tokushima (JAP)	18	7	-
San S. Pleonchit (THAI)	11	8	-
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	-	9	2
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	-	10	-
Harold Grey (COL)	-	-	4
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	19	-	5
Toto Pangswant (THAI)	-	-	6
Kyung Yon Lee (KOR)	-	-	8
Tongchai Kittikasem (THAI)	-	-	9
Robbie Regan (GB)	13	12	10

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Michael Carbajal (USA)	**C**	-	**C**
Myung Woo Yuh (KOR)	-	**C**	-
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	1	9	-
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	2	4	-
Javier Varquez (MEX)	3	-	7
Jesus Chong (MEX)	4	6	-
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	5	12	8
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	6	7	-
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	7	3	12
Domingo Sosa (DR)	8	10	-
Raul Rios (MEX)	9	-	10
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	10	1	1
Leo Gamez (VEN)	21	2	-
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	17	5	-
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	-	8	-
Phalan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	-	-	2
Leon Salazar (PAN)	14	-	3
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	-	-	4
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	-	-	5
Robinson Cuesta (PAN)	-	-	6
Pronchai Sitpapom (THAI)	-	-	9

STRAWWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	**C**	-	-
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	-	**C**	-
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	-	-	**C**
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	1	-	-
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	2	10	-
Kermin Guardia (COL)	3	4	-
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	4	5	-
Saman Sor Jaturong (THAI)	5	8	-
Phalan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	6	6	-
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	7	-	-
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	8	2	-
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	9	-	-
Aswin Sithlukmuang (THAI)	10	-	-
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	-	1	2
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	-	3	1
Rafael Torres (DR)	-	7	8
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	17	9	-
Felix Naranjo (COL)	-	-	3
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	-	-	4
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	15	-	5
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	16	-	6
Aswin Sasiprakyim (THAI)	-	-	7
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	-	-	9
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	-	11	10

SECOND GUESSERS KNOW THE ANSWERS

Death Of Jimmy Doyle In Bout With Ray Robinson Shows Need For Drastic Ruling On Fighters Who Have Suffered Head Injuries

RING CLASSIC

From The Ring, September 1947

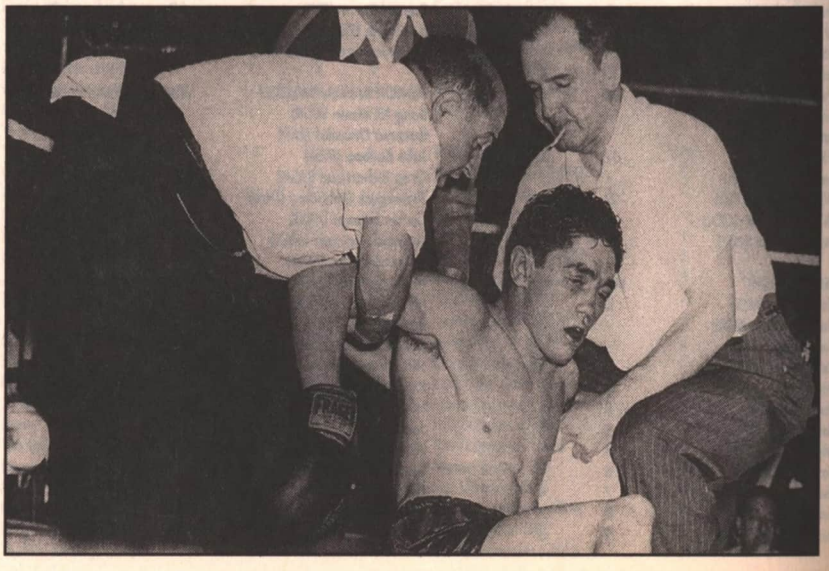
By Nat Fleischer

Close to 12,000 rabid fight fans, a capacity house, sat in the Arena of Cleveland to view the first world championship bout staged in that city in many years, a battle for the welterweight crown between Ray Robinson and Jimmy Doyle of Los Angeles. They came to witness a title bout with the hopes, judging by the vociferous applause that greeted every punch landed by Doyle, of seeing the crown change hands. This partisan gathering, for such it appeared, was treated to a good, clean fight, a battle that was fought strictly on its merits, but with the challenger so far outclassed that with the exception of one round, the sixth, the champ had things all his own way.

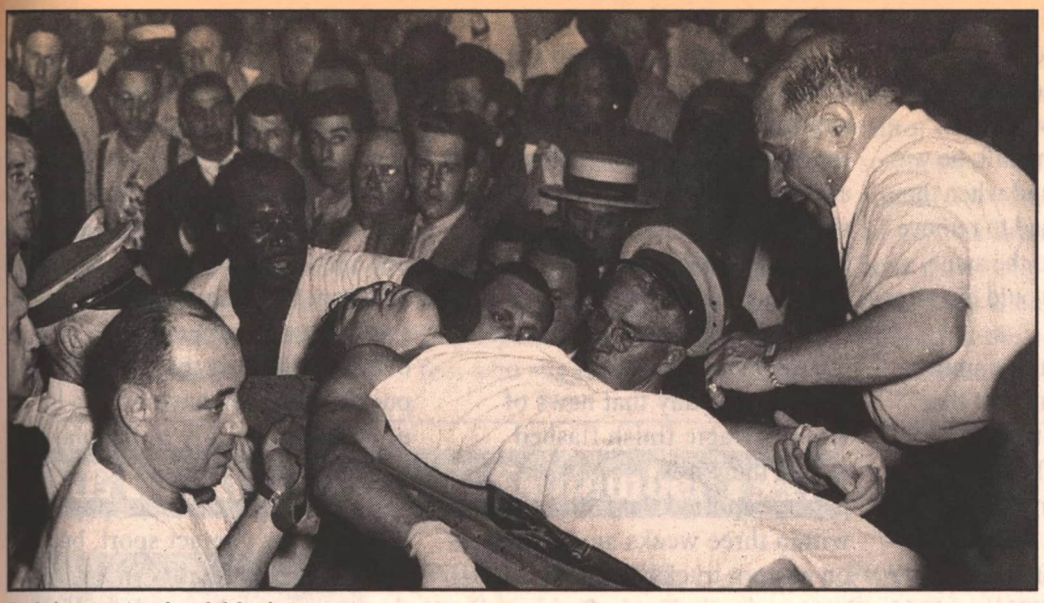
Little did those 11,275 fight fans, who had paid a gross of $79,340, dream when they entered the beautiful arena that fate had decreed they should witness a ring tragedy!

In the sixth and part of the seventh round it seemed that the Doyle enthusiasts might yet have their wish fulfilled with a victory. Suddenly the tide turned again, and the shellacking Doyle received in the final portion of the seventh and throughout the eighth round resulted in a tragedy that shocked the boxing world—a knockout that culminated 17 hours later in the first death of a contestant in a championship mill since half-a-century ago.

Death came to Jimmy Doyle, once a handsome lad who started his career in Jim Jeffries' barn fights when only 17 years old, from a blood clot on the brain and respiratory paralysis. He was brought in an ambulance to the St.



Doyle is helped to his corner by his seconds after he was knocked out in the eighth round.



Knocked unconscious by a left hook, Doyle is carried from the ring.

Vincent's Charity Hospital immediately after the injury, and despite all efforts of the medical attendants, he failed to regain consciousness and passed away a few hours after Dr. Spencer Braden, brain specialist of Chagrin Fall, Ohio, had operated on him to relieve the pressure on the brain.

Thus the Grim Reaper took his seventh victim of the year, four amateurs and three professionals having passed into the Great Beyond since January 1.

***

A short left hook to the jaw ended the fight and the life of Doyle. Up to the time that the hook was landed with all the power behind the champ's body, there never was any question about stopping the mill. Doyle was the aggressor almost from the start, and while he was the recipient of many effective wallops, he never let up trying. He kept coming in at all times, and in that fatal round, as in most of the previous ones, he started to throw a right when Robbie countered swiftly with a left before Doyle's punch could be delivered.

That punch knocked Jimmy rigid. His eyes seemed to roll as his head snapped back, and with heels resting against the canvas as if hinged, Doyle's body went down. It struck the floor with a thud, like a rigid mass falling. His head crashed against the padded canvas, and as the referee started the count, Doyle raised his head and rested on his elbows.

He tried to get the support of the ring's ropes, but couldn't reach them. His every action indicated subconscious movements, and as the count of nine was reached and the bell sounded ending the round, Art Winch, one of his handlers, leaped into the ring to call a halt.

Confusion attended the finish of the fight. Aside from the shock of Doyle's injury on the packed house, referee Jackie Davis, not realizing how badly Doyle was hurt, urged his seconds to take him to his corner and prepare him for the succeeding round. As Winch started to raise Doyle, the California fighter collapsed in his arms, and Winch signaled that the bout was ended. Whereupon Davis, now grasping the situation, walked over to Robinson and raised his hand in token of victory.

Then followed some more confusion. Since the bell had sounded at nine, the majority of the scribes, and the referee, were of the opinion that the knockout should be recorded in the ninth round. However, when Davis realized that the bell had not sounded for that session, and that Winch had called a halt between rounds, the official decision was announced as a "technical kayo in the eighth round."

Doyle would have been 23 years old this month. He was born in Los Angeles of French-Irish parentage, and his correct name was James Delaney. He was scarcely 16 when he started boxing as an amateur in Jeffries' barn, and he was only 17 when he had his first pro battle with Mike Delia, a four-rounder in which he was knocked out.

Then his license was taken from him because he was underage, and during the time he had to wait to become eligible for professional boxing, he was taught by Jack Johnson. It was from him that Jimmy learned the art of catching punches in the air, blocking with gloves or elbows, and quickly countering. During the fight with Robinson, he repeatedly demonstrated his efficiency in this art by catching many of Ray's punches before they could land effectively.

He was so proficient a boxer that he lost but a few bouts. The Robinson contest was the fourth knockout he had suffered. He lost only four other decisions in 54 contests. He had won 24 bouts in succession, and among his victims were such stars as Chuck Hunter and Tommy Bell.

Before he was kayoed by Artie

Levine in the contest in which he received his first fractured skull, he had all the better of the milling. He was winning handily when the mishap occurred. In that tilt, he was dropped three times, and when the affair was over, they had to remove Doyle on a stretcher to the same hospital in which he would die after the Robinson mill.

Doyle showed courage under fire against Sugar Ray, but that was about all. At no time other than in the sixth did he have anything on the champ. In that session he staggered Robinson twice and hurt him once. Other than that round, it was all Robinson.

Ray outclassed his opponent and gave a masterful exhibition against the gamester. The Californian was buffeted about the ring, but his determination and his aggressiveness earned him the plaudits of the crowd. Doyle withstood the battering longer than the average fighter would have done, and because of that he paid dearly. The champion scaled 146, the victim 147.

Jimmy Doyle's unfortunate passing has given the holier-than-thou element fresh ammunition for blasting the "dangerous, brutal" sport of boxing. Considering the thousands—the actual figure must hit close to a million—of amateur and professional bouts held annually throughout the United States, serious injuries and fatalities in the prize ring are practically negligible compared to those reported in other fields of national athletic endeavor. Football, a seasonal pastime, is responsible for more deaths and permanent injuries in one short campaign than boxing accounts for in 10 YEARS!

The same day that news of Doyle's tragic finish flashed across the wires, New York papers reported the fifth fatality within three weeks among drivers on eastern tracks of the midget auto racing industry. Incidentally, any risks involved in boxing are confined to the participants. Accidents in auto racing not only can result in tragic consequences to the drivers, but to the spectators. Even comparatively "safe" baseball is not immune to frequent injuries and an occasional fatality.

Is there any tougher pastime than ice hockey, where the threat not only is from physical contact, but from flashing skates and swinging sticks? Let's not overlook the fact that flying pucks in hockey have done a lot of damage not only to the players, but to rinkside fans.

There's an element of physical risk in every contact sport, but seldom does a fatality in any of them stir up as lusty a howl from the blue-noses as one in boxing.

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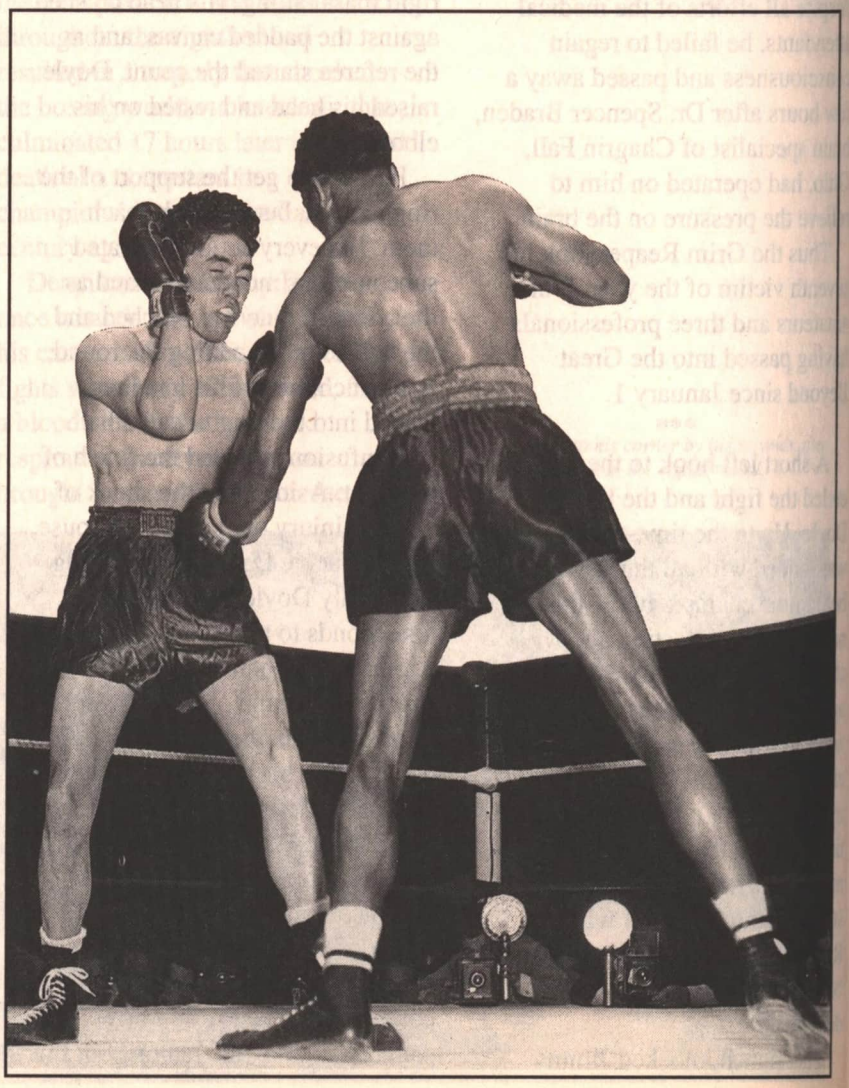
The usual routine screams for reforms, clean-ups, and a more



Robinson tears into the outclassed Doyle during their ill-fated bout in Cleveland.

thorough supervision over boxing have followed the death of Jimmy Doyle. In no other sport but in boxing is such a hue-and-cry raised when a fatality takes place. It is then that the agitators, the second-guessers, the adjective-dealing sports scribes who seldom see a fight but are on the *qui vive* when it comes to attacks on the sport, get busy. Fight managers are charged with everything short of murder; promoters are held up before the public as a mercenary gang ready to toss a young man into the ring against great odds with only one purpose in mind—to make money.

But how many of these phonies even thought of the name Jimmy Doyle prior to the fatality? The few who suggested that a Doyle-Robinson bout was a mismatch could be counted on the fingers of one's hand. Bob Tyron, sports editor of the *Arizona Times,* did so back on May 21, when in his column he wrote, "Doyle, before his serious injury suffered in a bout with Artie Levine, was a real threat, but is only a shadow of himself at the present time. He might even suffer serious physical

THE RING RATINGS, *September 1947*

Gus Lesnevich

HEAVYWEIGHTS
***World Champ:* Joe Louis**

1. Jersey Joe Walcott
2. Elmer Ray
3. Jimmy Bivins
4. Olle Tandberg
5. Pat Comiskey
6. Tami Mauriello
7. Joe Baksi
8. Lee Q. Murray
9. Kid Riviera
10. Phil Muscato

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
***World Champ:* Gus Lesnevich**

1. Ezzard Charles
2. Archie Moore
3. Tommy Yarosz
4. Billy Fox
5. Lloyd Marshall
6. Billy Smith
7. Dave Sands
8. Dolph Quijano
9. Bob Foxworth
10. Rau Augustus

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
***World Champ:* Rocky Graziano**

1. Jake LaMotta
2. Tony Zale
3. Marcel Cerdan
4. Bert Lytell
5. Steve Belloise
6. Chuck Hunter
7. Georgie Abrams
8. Fred Apostoli
9. Smuggy Jursey
10. Herbie Kronowitz

WELTERWEIGHTS
***World Champ:* Ray Robinson**

1. Tommy Bell
2. Tony Pellone
3. Tony Janiro
4. Bernard Docusen
5. Johnny Greco
6. Charley Fusari
7. Gene Burton
8. Robert Villemain
9. Bee Bee Wright
10. Tippy Larkin

LIGHTWEIGHTS
***World Champ:* Title Vacant**

1. Bob Montgomery
2. Ike Williams
3. Enrique Bolanos
4. Larry Cisneros
5. Roberto Proietti
6. Vic Patrick
7. Tony Mar
8. Freddie Dawson
9. Johnny Bratton
10. Rudy Cruz

FEATHERWEIGHTS
***World Champ:* Willie Pep**

1. Miguel Acevedo
2. Charlie Riley
3. Jock Leslie
4. Sandy Saddler
5. Phil Terranova
6. Cliff Anderson
7. Carlos Chavez
8. Humberto Sierra
9. Eddie Miller
10. Chico Rosa

BANTAMWEIGHTS
***World Champ:* Manuel Ortiz**

1. Peter Kane
2. David Kui Kong Young
3. Harold Dade
4. Bunty Doran
5. Stan Rowan
6. Luis Galvani
7. Luis Castillo
8. Norman Lewis
9. Tony Olivera
10. Jimmy Stewart

FLYWEIGHTS
***World Champ:* Jackie Paterson**

1. Dado Marino
2. Rinty Monaghan
3. Maurice Sandeyron
4. Emile Famechon
5. Raoul Degryse
6. Mickey Hill
7. Jimmy Hoeg
8. Dickie O'Sullivan
9. Monito Flores
10. Armando Puenti Pi

results against Robinson, and would do well to retire now."

Franklin Lewis, columnist of the *Cleveland Press,* was another who urged Doyle's retirement. He repeatedly wrote that Doyle would be no match for Robinson because he no longer was a clear-headed, clever, hard-hitting youngster. He suggested that the head injury received in the Levine bout had rendered Jimmy unfit for further ring competition.

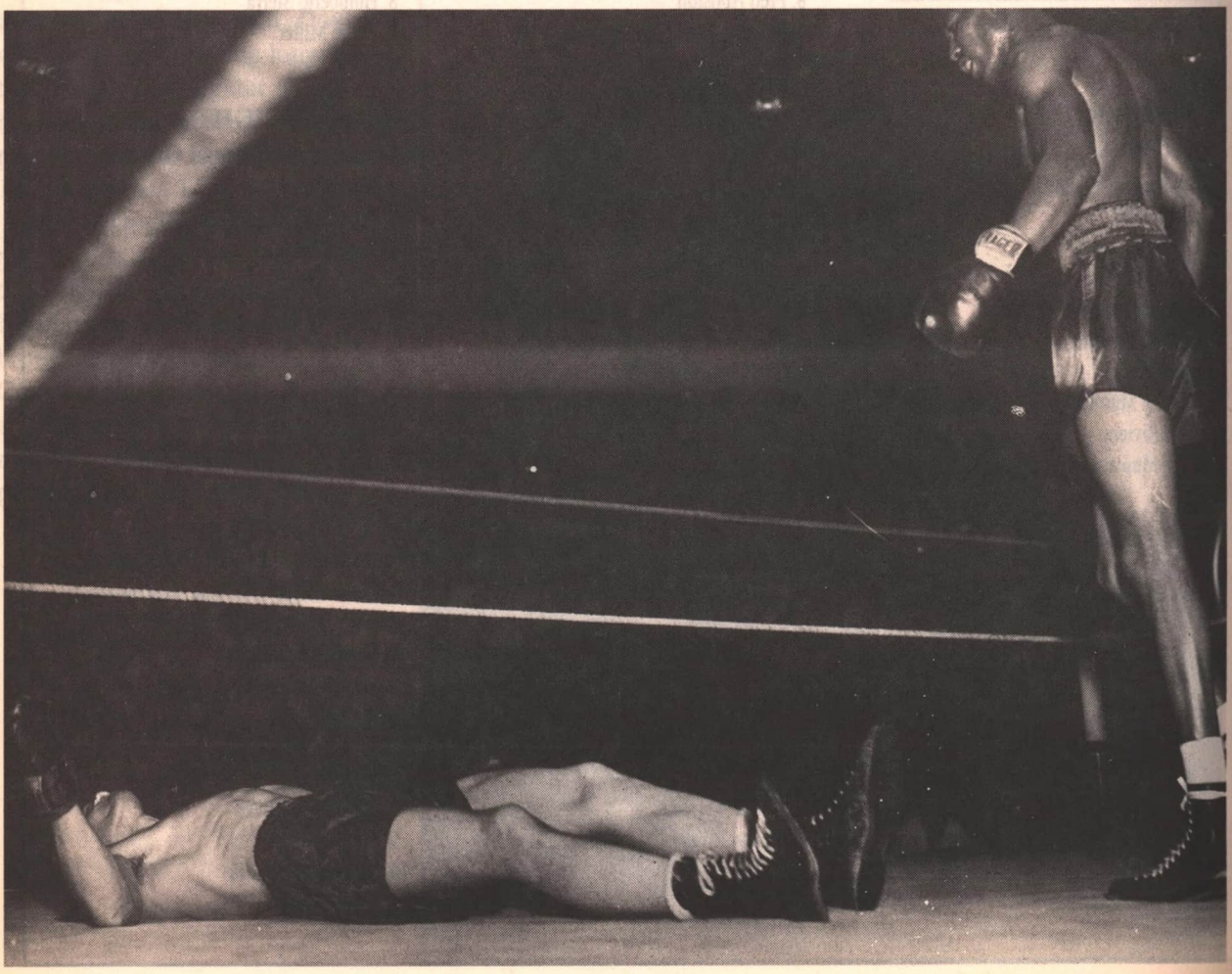
Lewis based his decision on "an off-the-record report" of a Dr. Hagedorn, who not only informed Cleveland newspapermen after the Levine fight that Doyle was through as a fighter (and told why), but also revealed to the boxing commission his belief that "Doyle was sluggish. The scribes couldn't use this off-the-record report, according to Lewis.

The commission had such a report, yet the fact that the New York State Commission's medical examiners had informed the Cleveland board that it had found Doyle fit to continue was sufficient, in the eyes of Dr. Hagedorn, to warrant no adverse action on his part. And correctly so.

If three medical advisors of the New York board, including a brain specialist, could find nothing wrong with Jimmy after his long layoff, and Doyle's bouts of this year proved him capable of tackling the best, there was no reason for the Cleveland commission to refuse to sanction the Robinson bout unless it had information from Dr. Hagedorn which we laymen could not obtain. The coroner's trying to pin down Ray Robinson to an admittance that he knew that Doyle was an unfit opponent (in order to apparently hold Robinson responsible for Doyle's death), must be passed off as the most ridiculous portion of the investigation.

Doyle died because of a blood clot, brought about by the

Robinson looks down at the prostrate figure of Doyle, who never regained consciousness.



combination of Robinson's blows and the striking of his head against the ring floor. There can be no doubt, so far as I'm concerned, that this was aggravated by the previous injury, and though boxing can stand a tighter supervision, in Doyle's case we cannot blame Dr. Hagedorn, Ray Robinson, the commission, or the promoter.

***

Jimmy Doyle was the second fighter in the last 50 years to be fatally injured in a championship bout. Exactly half-a-century ago, in 1897, Jimmy Barry, then American champion, knocked out Walter Croot, English titleholder, in London for the world crown. Croot failed to regain consciousness.

Several fighters who later became champions, among them four heavyweights, Bob Fitzsimmons, Jess Willard, Max Baer, and Primo Carnera, fatally injured opponents.

•Con Riordan collapsed in the second round of an exhibition with Fitzsimmons in Syracuse and died.

•Bull Young, big, cumbersome novice, was stopped in 11 rounds by Willard in Vernon, California, and the battering he received resulted in fatal injuries.

•Frankie Campbell passed on after being knocked out by Max Baer in five rounds in San Francisco.

•Ernie Schaaf collapsed in the 13th round of a bout with Carnera in Madison Square Garden and failed to regain consciousness. This came after Ernie had been badly hurt by Max Baer in their Chicago battle.

Other champions-to-be figuring in fatal bouts were bantamweight Bud Taylor (twice, with Frankie Jerome in the old Garden and Clever Sencio in Milwaukee), and lightweight Lou Ambers (with Tony Scarpati in Brooklyn).

In probably nine cases out of 10, the fatal injuries suffered in bouts were traced to previous accidents. For instance, after Luther McCarty, then boxing's outstanding White Hope, died after being hit a light left jab by Arthur Pelkey in Calgary, Canada, it was learned that Luther had, a few months previously, suffered head injuries from a fall off a bucking horse.

Mickey Shannon, young Pittsburgh heavyweight who died following a knockout by Al Roberts in Jersey City, had complained for several weeks before the bout of headaches, apparently brought on from a beating he had absorbed from Harry Greb in Pittsburgh. Insisting that his headaches were not serious, Shannon refused to call off the match with Roberts.

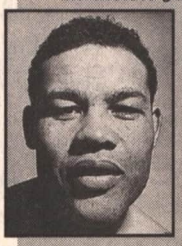
Frankie Mahon, Harrison, New Jersey, featherweight, had his jaw broken in a bout with Jack Tracey. After several months on the sidelines, he returned to the ring against the advice of friends. Result: He died following his bout with Willie Davis in Elizabeth.

Pancho Villa, world flyweight champion, lost a decision to Jimmy McLarnin, then a featherweight, in Oakland. Villa entered the ring with an ulcerated tooth. His exertions in the bout sent poison flowing through his system, and he died 10 days later in a hospital.

Dencio Cabanella, the first of the great Filipino fighters, collapsed during a bout with Jack Green in Sydney, Australia, and died without regaining consciousness. The autopsy revealed he had been suffering from an incurable blood disease. ■

THE RING, September 1947

The Cover: NBA lightweight champion Ike Williams is the cover subject. Only a few months after this issue was released, Williams unified the world title by kayoing Bob Montgomery in six rounds.



Invincible Joe: In "10 Years A Champ," Jersey Jones examines the title reign of heavyweight king Joe Louis. Reads the blurb, "After Decade As World's Top Heavyweight, Joe Louis Finds Himself Without Opposition." Ultimately, of course, the one foe Louis couldn't beat was Father Time.

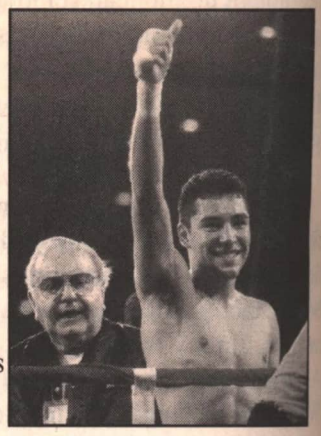
Graziano-Zale II: Nat Fleischer reports from Chicago, where Rocky Graziano wins the middleweight title by stopping arch-rival Tony Zale in the sixth round. Fleischer described the fight as "a raw, brutal, bloody affair, much like their first encounter."

A Most Durable Dane: The 65th birthday of former world lightweight champion Battling Nelson is celebrated by Jersey Jones, who looks back at the colorful "Durable Dane's" career. Just one of the anecdotes: It was said that Aurelio Herrera hit Nelson so hard that Bat did a complete somersault.

Fighter Of The Month: Rocky Graziano is honored for his thrilling, come-from-behind kayo of defending middleweight champion Tony Zale. Among the others considered was heavyweight Olle Tandberg, who upset Joe Baksi over 10 rounds in Stockholm.

Looking Ahead

De La Hoya: Dropping down



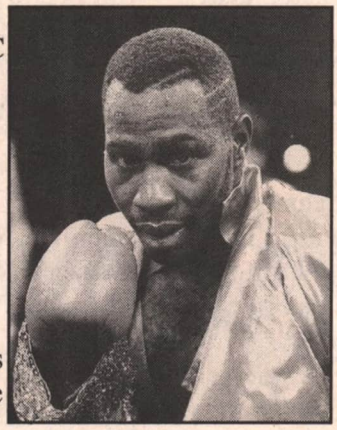
THE OSCAR WATCH

With Oscar De La Hoya able to make either 130 or 135 pounds, 1993's questions of the year has become: In which division (lightweight or junior lightweight) will the unbeaten contender try for a world title? And against which champion? It now looks as if De La Hoya will opt for the 130-pound class. Look for him to challenge WBA champion Genaro Hernandez, who, according to De La Hoya co-manager Steve Nelson, is "made for Oscar." Sounds like a natural matchup for the Great Western Forum.

How big is Oscar? Talks have been held between Team De La Hoya and ABC-TV concerning the possibility of airing De La Hoya's first title fight on prime time in September or October, immediately before an NFL Monday night football game. There hasn't been a fight on prime time network TV since Larry Holmes-Carl Williams in May 1985.

MAKING IT MANDATORY

A slew of recent results have rearranged the title fight schedule. For starters, Lamar Parks figures to become the mandatory challenger for newly crowned WBC champion Gerald McClellan. Sumbu Kalambay, who is rated first, is scheduled to fight for the lightly regarded WBO title (vs. Chris Pyatt). As we went to press, Roy Jones, who is rated second, was set to meet Bernard Hopkins for the vacant IBF title. Parks is rated third.

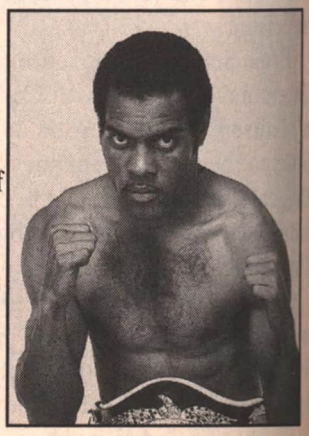


Parks could get a shot

With the IBF's top-rated light heavyweight, Tim Hillie, losing to Ernesto Magdaleno, Anthony Hembrick will likely become champion Henry Maske's mandatory challenger. WBC super lightweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez already has plans to make a mandatory defense against the new number-one contender, Frankie Randall (on July 17). And featherweight Kevin Kelley, who has been waiting months for a title shot, will now make his mandatory WBC challenge vs. champion Goyo Vargas, and not Vargas' kayo victim, Paul Hodkinson.

LISTEN UP

Jackson: Calling for Norris



Junior middleweight Aaron Davis, who is rated first by the WBA, wants a crack at champion Julio Cesar Vasquez. Bill Giles, Davis' manager, calls Vasquez "overrated and one-dimensional." Says Giles, "If [Vasquez] was an American, he'd be nothing." Nonetheless, under no circumstances will Giles agree to a fight in Vasquez' native Argentina. Look for the fight to land in Monaco in August ... Undefeated junior middleweight John David Jackson is calling for WBC champion Terry Norris. Trouble is, nobody wants to fight a difficult southpaw. Jackson is 30, and he doesn't have much more time to secure a big-money bout ... Thomas Hearns is recovering slowly from hand surgery. The rumors are stronger than ever that he'll never fight again.

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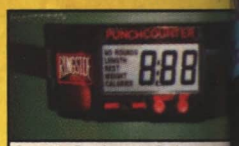

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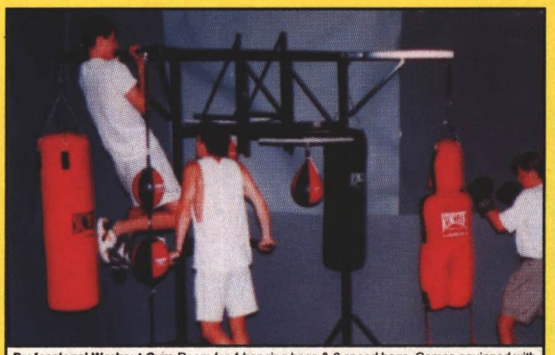

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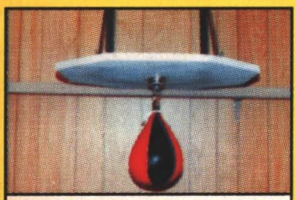

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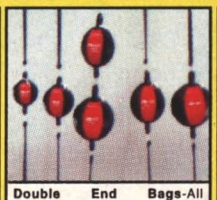

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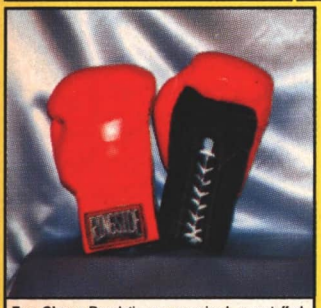

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